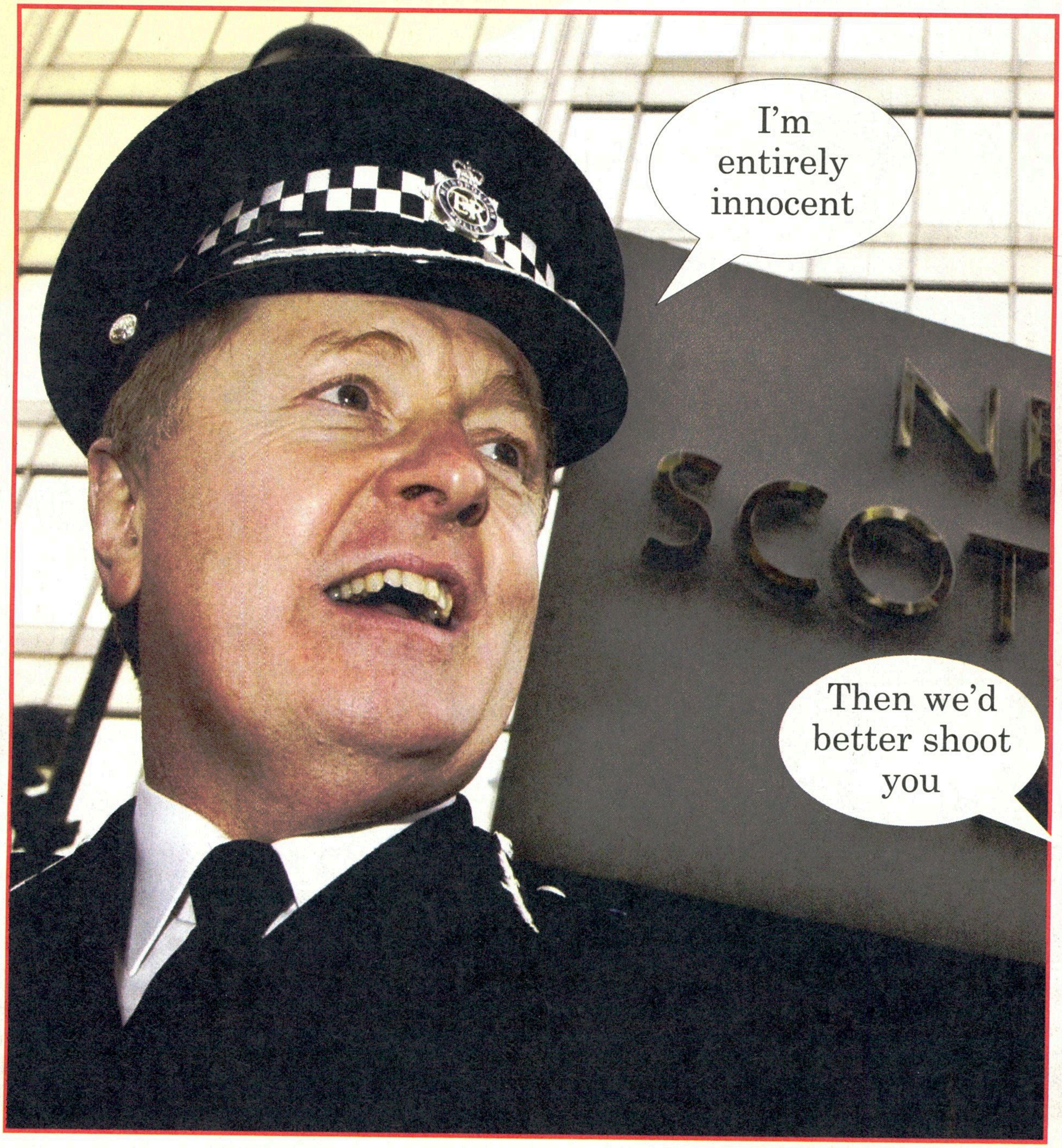
No. 1140
2 September –
15 Sept. 2005
£1.40

PRIVATE EYE

TOP LONDON COP WON'T RESIGN



RENAULT

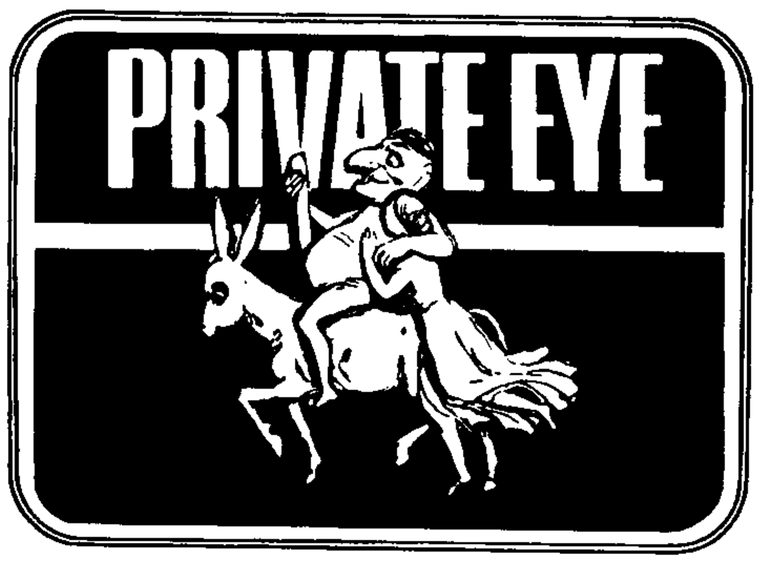
ESPACE

WITH 4 YEARS' 0% APR typical

EURO NCAP ESPACE ★★★★★
www.euroncap.com

From £21,995 with panoramic glass roof, full colour satellite navigation with TMC*, keyless car with Renault Card, surround-sound 6 CD multi-changer, roof bars/rear roof spoiler, ABS with EBDand Brake Assist, 6 airbags (driver, front passenger, 2 curtain, 2 front lateral), ISOFIX child seat mountings and power assisted steering.**

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the 2.0 16V are: Urban 22.4 (12.6), Extra Urban 37.2 (7.6), Combined 30.1 (9.4). The official CO_2 emission is 229g/km. Price includes delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £38 first registration fee. Finance is subject to status. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) to apply for finance. Finance provided by RFS Ltd, Thistle House, City Road, Chester CH88 3AN. All figures correct at time of going to press. This offer applies to vehicles ordered and registered by 28th September 2005 and is available to private and small business customers at participating dealers only. Car shown with optional metallic paint £500. *TMC = Traffic Messaging Channel. **EBD = Electronic Brake Distribution. RENAULT RECOMMEND elf



It's not cricket...

- Mo, farewell then 6
- TV on a sticky wicket 8
- Standards Board up the spout 11
- Big bills from the Old Bill 25
- The murder that never was 27
- Sparing Deloitte's blushes over Rover 28
- Fayed feels the pinch 28

"Teenagers these days are all completely passed."

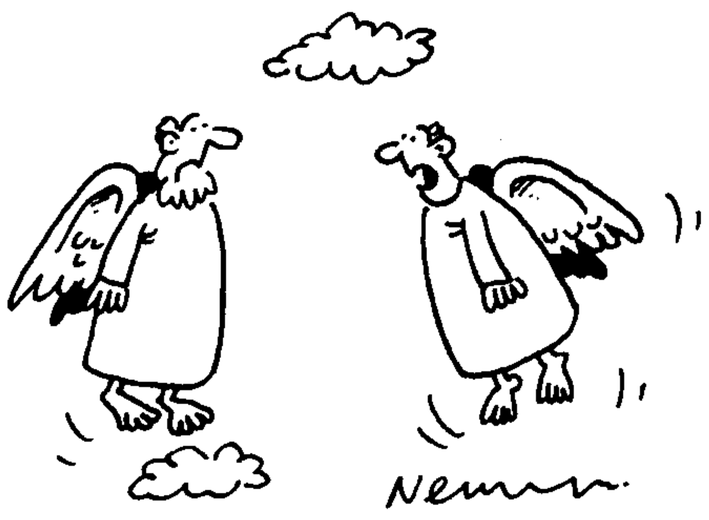
WHY DID police radios not work in Stockwell station (when transport cops can communicate perfectly well down there)?

The question was repeated throughout the media after the discovery that firearms officers involved in the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes lost contact with their superiors as soon as they went underground. But no one was providing an answer. Even the *Sunday Express*, which revealed that the MetRadio system used by London's police doesn't work at "an amazing 123 stations" didn't get to the bottom of the situation.

Part of the reason they don't work is a two-year delay with the PFI Connect project to deliver a new radio system, which will end the many radio problems on the Northern Line and allow both police and ambulance crews to communicate underground. Connect is being built by the CityLink consortium under a £1.2bn, 20 year deal, and will work with the new Airwave system replacing MetRadio this year. Obviously for communications to have worked, both systems would have had to be in place, but the delays with Connect have hardly been an incentive to getting Airwave up-and-running in the capital (other forces are already using it).

Transport for London, which inherited the deal when it took over the Tube, describes Connect as "a poorly managed contractual arrangement that has so far failed to deliver the system that is critical to our efforts to improve operations, safety and information."

It is now due for completion in 2006 and way over budget.



"Ironically I got bird flu."

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. Tel: 020 7437 4017.
Fax: 020 7437 0705. Email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS/SALES
PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.
Subscription enquiries: 0870 750 1714 or 01795 414 871
Overseas: +44 (0) 1795 414 870 Fax: 01795 414 555.
Books: 0870 750 1712 **Web:** www.private-eye.co.uk
Email: private-eye@galleon.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
£24 per annum. Europe and Eire £32. Airmail (rest of world) £38. Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Mastercard/Visa.

ADVERTISING
Display: 020 7878 2303 Classified: 020 7240 9129

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by BGP Ltd, Bicester OX6 7QZ. **Distributed** by P.E. Distributions, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. 020 7437 4017.

ABC

ONLY last month the *Guardian* sacked trainee hack Dilpazier Aslam for writing a comment piece without disclosing that he was a member of the radical Muslim group Hizb ut-Tahrir. Yet it seems to have learned nothing from the *debacle*.

On 11 August the paper ran an op-ed piece by one Saad al-Fagih, who claimed that "no one will be more pleased than Osama bin Laden with the new measures proposed by Tony Blair". Bin Laden would rejoice because he had forced Britain into forsaking its liberal values. "This, he believes, will leave the west open to eventual defeat at the hands of Muslims."

Saad al-Fagih was described by the *Grauniad* as "a leading exiled Saudi dissident and director of the Movement for Islamic Reform in Saudi Arabia". What the paper neglected to add – which might be thought slightly relevant, given that the article was all about bin Laden's triumphs – is that last December the United Nations added al-Fagih's name to its official list of individuals "belonging or related to... Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida organisation".

Records obtained during the trial of men accused of bombing US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania had revealed that al-Fagih's credit card was used in 1996 to buy a £10,000 satellite phone, with all-weather antenna and 3,000 pre-paid minutes, which was used for the next two years by Osama bin Laden and his deputy, Mohammed Atef. The telephone – phone number 00873 682 505 331 – appears to have been used to help co-ordinate the East African embassy bombings in 1998. Other claims against al-Fagih include an allegation that he shared an office with Khaled al Fawwaz, who acted as bin Laden's *de facto* representative in Britain during the 1990s.

Was the *Guardian* aware of this? If not, it certainly knows now. But although several readers have written to point out the omission, not one of their letters has been printed; nor has the famous Corrections and Clarifications column "clarified" al-Fagih's potted biography.

Meanwhile, the *Grauniad*'s accounts department may have problems paying him for the article without falling foul of the law. Under UN resolution 1267, al-Fagih's inclusion in the list of terrorist associates last December obliged all member states to freeze his assets and bank accounts, which Gordon Brown duly did the next day. So the fee may have to be cash in a brown envelope.

"FARMERS shall be prohibited from re-using seeds of protected varieties" – so reads article 15 of Iraq's order 81, aka the patents, industrial design, undisclosed information, integrated circuits and plant variety law, one of 100 "orders" brought in by the US-run coalition provisional authority which ruled Iraq prior to handing over to Iraqis – and which have stayed in place ever since.

Opponents have leapt on Order 81, saying it means farmers can keep no seeds at all. Last month former environment minister Michael Meacher wrote in a *Times* opinion piece that: "While historically the Iraqi constitution prohibited private ownership of biological resources, the new US-imposed patent law introduces a system of monopoly rights over seeds."

Such claims give the big seed firms angling to grab a share of the Iraqi market with their sterile GM "terminator" seeds, particularly Monsanto's pro-active PR team, an opening to insist that the order does no such thing. Campaign groups Grain and Focus on the Global South have even had to add a Monsanto-approved clarification to their critical report from October 2004, saying: "The law does not prohibit Iraqi farmers from using or saving 'traditional' seeds. It prohibits them from re-using seeds of 'new' plant varieties registered under the law."

So that's all right then? Well, no. There are, in fact, next to no 'traditional' seeds left in Iraq. Much of the public sector-controlled local seed industry was destroyed in fighting and looting and the UN has just warned that seed shortages now threaten the country's food security, saying Iraq can meet just 4 percent of its demand for quality seeds from its own resources.

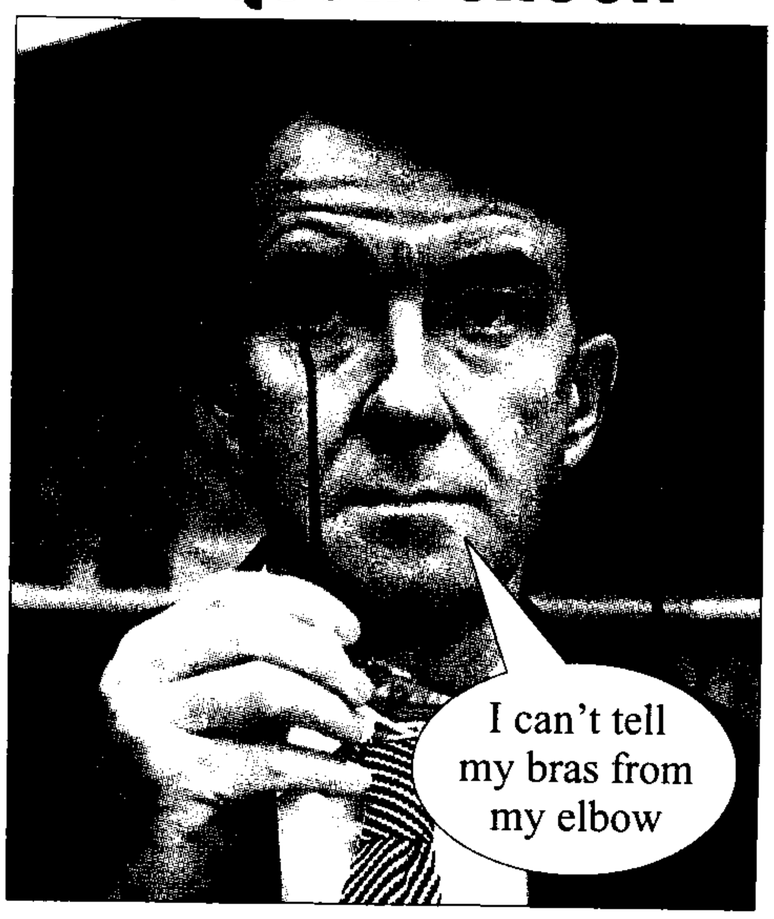
And who is ready to step in with their patented, no re-use, cheap-this-time, pay a fortune when all the traditional, re-usable seeds are gone, seeds? Er, the US agri-business giants of course.

HAVING been ostracised by some Tory MPs for backing Kenneth Clarke in the 2001 leadership contest, Boris Johnson isn't making the same mistake twice: he has told *Spectator* hacks that this time the mag will back David Cameron, and mustn't offer Clarke even a word of support.

But even editors have to go on holiday some time. While Boris and his family disported themselves in fun-filled Uzbekistan last week, political editor Peter Oborne seized the chance to write a column rubbishing Boris's chum Cameron and promoting the only candidate who shares Blair's "breathtaking ability" to reach out beyond core party supporters to the wider electorate – one Ken Clarke.

Boris is already being made to look a blithering idiot on the London stage every night in a play written by his own two theatre critics. And now this. Has he *any* loyal colleagues?

EU QUOTA SHOCK



Street Of Shame

AMID all the tributes to Robin Cook as Tony Blair's most formidable critic, there has been a curious silence from the *Guardian* diary – usually quick to seize any stick with which to beat "new Labour" toadies.

This may be because in 2001 the selfsame *Guardian* diary named Cook as "turncoat of the year", and actually commissioned a multi-coloured turncoat for him. The plan was for a Scottish Socialist Party candidate to embarrass Cook by presenting him with the coat in the full glare of the cameras at his election-night count in Livingston. Alas, the diary couldn't resist boasting about the scheme, and by the time the SSP candidate and agent arrived at the count Cook's special branch minders warned that if they attempted the presentation they'd be jumped on and arrested.

The former MEP Hugh Kerr, who was involved in the stunt, emailed *Guardian* diarist Marina Hyde last week to suggest that she exhume the story as "a lasting reminder of the diary's political judgment and an example of how political reputations change". Hyde, alas, decided otherwise.

THE ALTERNATIVE investigation into the death of Princess Diana currently being conducted by the *Daily Express* and Mohamed Fayed (see last *Eye*) continues to uncover evidence which differs vastly from that seen by anyone else.

Having spent much of the past fortnight speculating that Diana's body was to be exhumed (it isn't), the paper ran the latest of countless front pages on the topic last Friday: "DIANA: HOW FRENCH MISSED VITAL CLUES".

Curiously, Padraic Flanagan failed to report exactly why they had missed those clues – because the forensic techniques which have recently been used on the wreckage of the Mercedes in which Diana died did not exist at the time of the French investigation.

He also, despite devoting almost 1000 words to the usual guff about pregnancy and murder plots, failed to specify that the vital "clues" were, er, that the car was in good working order and had definitely not been tampered with. Other papers did manage to record this fact – along with the news that this "dramatic progression" of the investigation had led Sir John Stevens and his team to "strongly believe she was the victim of a tragic accident."

DELIVERING an exquisite puff-piece for the mobile phone content provider Monstermob in the *Telegraph*'s city pages, Philip Aldrick was at least honest about why he felt the company was "worth a punt for the brave speculator" – "Sir David and Sir Frederick Barclay, who own The *Daily Telegraph*, hold a 5.5pc stake."

He was less clear, however, about the full range of services that Monstermob provide. While Aldrick pointed out that the company "deals less in the kind of ringtones that drive you mad and more in real music", he did not find space to detail their "Jodie Marsh on your mobile" service, offering a series of pictures of the topless model, the "Flirt Chat" service, which lets "girls bombard gorgeous hunks with thousands of naughty messages," or the "Light up your spliff" download from the "Pot Headz" range.

With *Telegraph* subscribers already being bombarded with invitations to join the Barclay's Ritz Casino Online, can it be long before invitations to "get loved up on your mobile" arrive on Tunbridge Wells breakfast tables?

IT HAD to happen. After all the *Eye*'s jokes about the *Sunday Hellograph*, articles from the *Sunday Telegraph* have now actually started appearing in *Hello!*

Last week's *Hello!* reproduced a fascinating interview Elizabeth Day conducted with Kate Garraway in which the GMTV presenter "tells how her engagement news has been receieved by her family and fans".

So bland was the *Telegraph* interview that the notoriously ingratiating magazine reproduced it in its entirety without feeling the need to excise even the slightest negative word or phrase.

JUST FANCY THAT!

"Man phones woman shock: We are not obsessed with hank, or even in pank [*sic*], at this newspaper. We simply observe that Sven Goran Eriksson, the England football team manager, is unmarried… We go on to observe that our national obsession with the soap opera of the private lives of public figures, often scripted, directed and produced by Max Clifford, is regarded as a form of collective psychosis in many other European countries."

– *Independent on Sunday*, 21 August, editorial.

"A game of two other halves… Sven Goran Eriksson is in trouble again over his love life. Report, page 5"

– *Independent on Sunday*, 21 August, headline and caption to vast picture on page one.

"I'm afraid he's been radicalised by the Daily Mail"

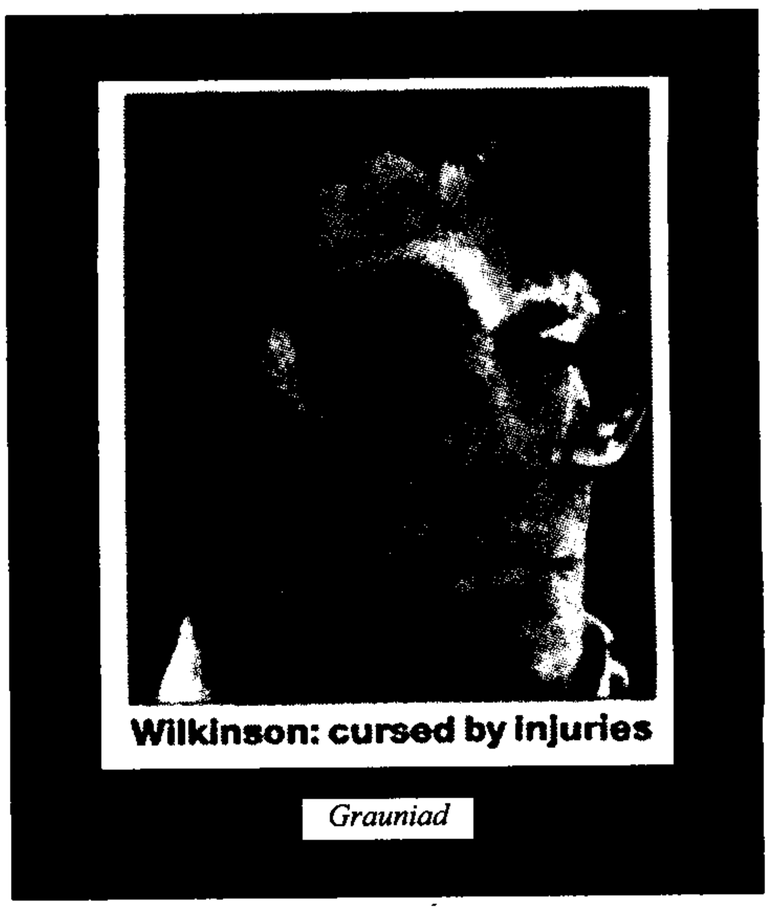
Number crunchings

2% ■ Fall in number of failed asylum seekers being removed in 2004, according to Home Office statistics reported by Daily Mail, Express, Mirror and Sun

20% ■ Fall in number of people seeking asylum in 2004, according to Home Office statistics reported by Guardian, Independent and Times

WHEN *Sunday Times* foreign correspondent Christina Lamb decided to renew her home insurance she contacted The Sunday Times Home Insurance Service advertised in her own paper, hoping for a good deal.

But she was disappointed: "We don't insure journalists, they are too high risk," said a minion in the call centre. When asked why hacks were such high risk, Lamb was told: "You might libel someone and then have to sell your home to pay for it."


Wilkinson: cursed by injuries

Grauniad

"BOSSES are told to stop the curse of swearing," the *Daily Mail* reported last week, after the Institute of Directors called for a ban on four-letter words in the workplace.

"It is particularly damaging when senior personnel swear to subordinates," an IoD spokesman warned. "These people are going to have low morale and their work will suffer." *Mail* readers were invited to visit the paper's website and vote on the question: "Would you support a ban on workplace swearing?"

This was a none-too-subtle message from his own subordinates to holidaying editor Paul Dacre – whose use of the c-word is so prolific that his morning conferences are known to cowering hacks as "the vagina monologues". But their reckless insubordination didn't last long. All traces of the online poll have now been excised from the *Daily Mail* website.

WEARY hacks at *The Times* are bracing themselves for the umpteenth redesign of T2 in the pisspoor supplement's short life. It will be unveiled on 5 September, backed by a TV and billboard campaign.

The Times already has two design supremos – the widely admired David Driver, who has been at the paper for years, and the far less illustrious Tomaso Capuano, a "post-modernist" protégé of vapid editor Robert Thomson. Yet Thomson has farmed out the new look for T2 to Neville Brody, the trendy magazine designer.

When Thomson first arrived three years ago, he brought Capuano over from the *FT* and hailed him as a "creative genius" who would invent "a new visual language for newspapers". But it seems that the *wunderkind* isn't quite enough of a genius to produce a measly 24-page supplement. He has redesigned T2 twice before – including the soon-abandoned gimmick of superimposing a "grill effect" over the cover photos. Although Thomson thought it looked thrillingly "edgy" (his favourite buzzword), he admitted in an interview that "people are allergic to the design".

But that didn't stop him entrusting Capuano with the relaunch of the Saturday section in 2003, a spectacular failure which gained no sales and cost £8m. The bill for that was paid in many "assisted departures" a year later, and the Saturday section has since been completely revamped. Now yet more money is being thrown away on yet another relaunch for T2. On past form, the new design will be abandoned within a year.

OLYMPICBALLS

"CONGRATULATIONS to the London 2012 team on their world-beating performance to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

PA believes in Innovation, Responsiveness and Delivery... and we salute those qualities in your winning team".

– *PA Consulting website.*

***GUARDIAN* reader, Graham Larkbey, whose late father spent a "mercifully short time" at Chai Patel's company's lack-of-care home, Lynde House, was so angered by the *Grauniad*'s arslikhan interview with Labour's favourite health guru (*Eye* 1139) that he wrote to the newspaper to complain.**

His letter was not published, so he took the matter up with the deputy reader's editor, who concluded that while there might be a case for looking further into Lynde House, it was not the job of someone writing a profile. "The writer's brief was to interview the man who runs the Priory Group to ask about his (interesting) life story and views on the NHS."

This unquestioning, uncritical approach no doubt explains why the *Grauniad's* Weekend magazine last week ran a feature about care standards for the elderly and confused, which of course made no mention of Lynde House. It concluded that "child abuse makes national headlines, elder abuse doesn't". Well, now we all know why.

POLLY OF THE WEEK

"Luckily, our new male Brazilian au pair had decided not to take his family's advice to return home after the Stockwell shooting, and came with us to queue and help with the meltdown control brought on by over-excitement (kids) and exhaustion (me)."

– Julia Hobsbawn's Diary, New Statesman.

THOSE who suspected that Russell Crowe was merely a bit of a thug with a lucrative sideline in acting were firmly corrected by a lengthy profile in the *Times* magazine on 20 August.

Crowe is, interviewer Martyn Palmer revealed, a supremely committed and principled family man whose habit of attacking people only stems from his "terrible loneliness".

Not mentioned in the piece were the facts that Crowe also happens to be a close friend of Martyn Palmer, a regular guest at the journalist's home and a "kind of godfather figure" to his two children.

THE *SUN* – edited by Rebekah "Name and Shame" Wade – was shocked at the news that an Australian tourist may have been beaten to death because he was mistaken for notorious paedophile Robert Excell.

"The Innocent", the paper shrieked over a picture of the late Newton Thompson, requesting that any of its readers who might have information about the killing should immediately contact police on a number provided.

The paper's demand was almost as emphatic as the one they ran on 30 July when Excell entered the country: "WATCH HIM… he's a risk to British kids. Serial child molester Robert Excell could be moving to a street near YOU after being freed by Australian officials to roam as he likes. Parents have a right to know if he is living next door to them. If you see Excell, call *The Sun…*"

Number crunchings

3 ■ Number of broadsheet newspapers which considered the Rolling Stones' latest world tour front-page news

47 ■ Average age of broadsheet newspaper editors

HACKWATCH

Celia Walden

ACCORDING to *Press Gazette, Daily Telegraph* diarist Celia Walden is the snappiest dresser in Fleet Street. Her extensive wardrobe – including the off-the-shoulder number which adorns her "Spy" column every day – has won her "a huge fanbase". Yet nowhere in the three-page feature does *Press Gazette* say whether her journalism is equally snappy. Lord Gnome is happy to make good the omission:

29 July. "Newsflash: O J Simpson is in legal trouble." The former football star has been fined $25,000 for stealing satellite TV signals, Walden reveals. "'During a 2001 raid on his Miami home, a device known as a bootloader – used to steal signals from satellite channels – was found in O J's home,' says my source. 'The case has only just come to court, but it was briefer and less high-profile than the last one in which he was involved.'" Not very low-profile, however: the case has already been covered in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Post* etc, and news of it was beamed around the world by the AP news agency two days before Celia's "newsflash".

29 July. Clive Anderson is about to add another string to his bow, presenting a sports show sponsored by the *Guardian* on Channel 4. Walden stumbled on this hot scoop when she met Anderson at the Reuters summer party two nights ago – a mere two months after the *Guardian* issued a press release about the programme.

30 July. Who inspired James Blunt's chart-topping ballad "You're Beautiful"? "James wrote the song for his girlfriend, Camilla Boler," a close friend discloses. Alas! Walden has overlooked Blunt's own comment that it was written for an "ex-girlfriend". One day later, the *Mail on Sunday* reveals that the ex-girlfriend in question is called Dixie Chassay.

2 August. "Spy hears of another celebrity who has followed in Angelina Jolie's footsteps to adopt a second child: Hugh Jackman, who starred as Wolverine in *X-Men*. 'Hugh and his wife Deborra-Lee Furness adopted their little boy, Oscar, a while ago,' I'm told. 'But they were both keen for a new addition to the family, so last week they adopted a little girl.'" Who told Walden this? Perhaps someone who read the news in *People* magazine a full week earlier, or in one of the many other publications which have already followed up the story.

5 August. Ann Widdecombe is thrilled by her new TV series on BBC2. "It feels far too grand telling people I'm a presenter but I suppose that's what I do now and it's definitely something to be proud of," she tells Walden. "There aren't many politicians who've moved into presenting and have their own television show." Not unless you count Harold Wilson, Brian Walden, Matthew Parris, Robert Kilroy-Silk, Michael Portillo… But Walden, like Widdecombe, clearly doesn't.

11 August. Elle Macpherson has no plans to emigrate. "She has a very good relationship with her ex-partner, Arpad Busson," Walden is told, "and is keen to stay in London, where her underwear business is booming and she has lived so happily for the past few years." This is indeed a genuine scoop, in that no one else has reported it – but then nor has anyone seen fit to reveal that the Queen, Germaine Greer and Jeremy Clarkson also have no plans to emigrate. Never mind: Walden has another story up her sleeve: "This week I hear that opera director Dr Jonathan Miller feels that his Camden Town home is being besieged by 'feral children'." Though she may have heard it this week, Miller made his comments in an interview more than three years ago. The *Telegraph* itself carried a news story headed "Jonathan Miller in despair at feral gangs" on, er, 16 May 2002.

13 August. "I hear that Rod Stewart's daughter, Kimberly, has sent [Jennifer] Aniston a grovelling apology after branding her 'homely' in a magazine interview," Walden writes, neglecting to mention that millions of other people heard the same thing when Kimberly Stewart admitted it in an interview on the American TV network NBC earlier in the week, since when it has been widely reported.

16 August. Sensational news of Taunton's former Tory MP Adrian Flook, who lost his seat to the Lib Dems last May. "His wife of two years, Frangelica, has just given birth to their first child, Clementine Alexia," Walden discloses. Obscure ex-MP has baby – hold the front page!

17 August. "He is renowned for his love of all things aquatic, but who knew that Rick Stein was into poetry? The affable television chef is, in fact, such a devotee of Sir John Betjeman that he is to make a tribute programme to mark next summer's centenary of the late poet laureate's birth." Who knew it? Well, anyone who read a long feature by Stein discussing his plan to make a BBC film for Betjeman's centenary. The article appeared in the *Mail on Sunday* on 1 May, more than three months ago.

19 August. Another stunning exclusive: the GMTV presenter Penny Smith is to front a new poker show on Channel 5. "Penny has been looking to branch out into something different for a while," Walden's source reveals.

20 August. Gwyneth Paltrow's latest project is to provide a voice-over for the DVD adaptation of the children's book *Little Yoga*. "It's a sweet little book aimed at getting small children into yoga," Walden hears. "Gwyneth bought a copy for her daughter, Apple, and absolutely adored it, so she was keen to help out anyway she could." The ever-attentive diarist also hears that J K Rowling has bought a silver model of a dodo. "It's made by the celebrated jeweller Patrick Mavros," a friend discloses, "and it's quite something to look at."

Phew! Exhausted by all this ear-wigging, the best-dressed woman in Fleet Street now departs on holiday. Her "huge fanbase" must be inconsolable.

JUST FANCY THAT!

Heathrow airport suffered a marked fall in passenger traffic last month as a direct result of the two terrorist attacks on London, the operator of Britain's network of airports said this morning.

– The *Times*, 10 August.

Air travel in the UK reached record levels last month despite the London bombings. BAA, the airport operator that runs Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted as well as four other airports, said passenger numbers reached 14.6 million, up 2.6 percent on July 2004.

– The *Guardian*, 11 August.

HOUSING minister Baroness Andrews' announcement that private developers can now bid for a slice of the £3.9bn of housing money previously reserved for housing associations shows that Labour has only one solution to housing shortages – hurling cash at the private sector.

Having ruled out building more council houses, Labour now finds itself trying to tempt developers with ever-increasing sweeteners. Previously only "social landlords" such as housing associations could get a slice of this cash. Labour now thinks developers can be trusted to run "social housing", with profit-driven businesses taking care of poorer tenants, dealing sensitively with their rent arrears, and so forth.

So far other schemes administered by the Housing Corporation, such as "stock transfer" of council homes to associations backed by large bank loans, has failed to increase the amount of available housing (*Eyes passim*).

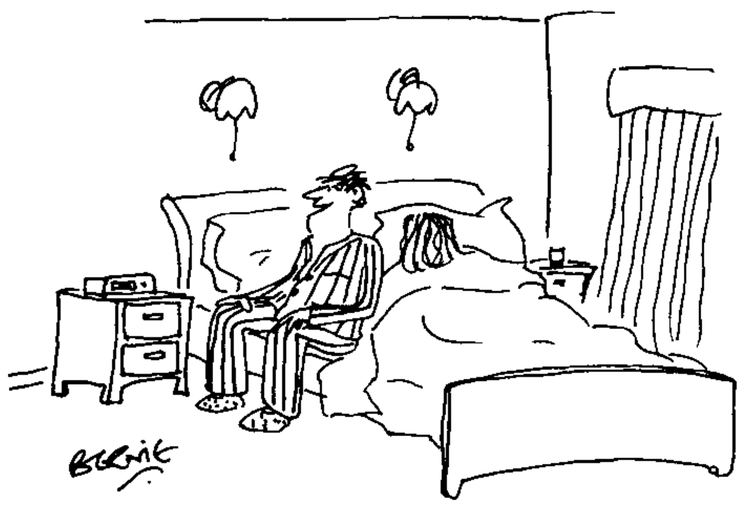
Another sweetener in the pipeline for the private sector is the "real estate investment trust" (Reit). Investors in funds for developing houses will pay less tax on profits. The property industry is very interested. Kevin McGrath, one of the businessmen most enthusiastic about Reits, donated £20,000 to the Labour party and even stood as a Labour candidate at the general election.

ANOTHER alumnus of consultants McKinsey has landed an important government job.

Natalie Ceeney, 34, has been appointed chief executive of the National Archives, formerly the Public Record Office.

The job of running the archives has traditionally gone to candidates who have built up reputations over many years as archivists and who value the public records as much as those using them. Just how Ms Ceeney will guard this important part of the country's heritage remains to be seen. One senior archivist told the *Eye:* "There is much concern in the profession and the wider historical community that the nation's memory is being entrusted to someone with no prior archive or historical study experience." The *Daily Telegraph* reported that academics at her current employer, the British Library, were none too impressed with Ms Ceeney's approach to what she termed the "knowledge industry".

Meanwhile, online access to one of the more popular parts of the archives – the 1901 census – has been sold by the firm that currently runs it under a 1998 PFI deal, the defence research company Qinetiq, to… Friends Reunited. FR is itself looking to sell up, so no one knows who will end up owning access to the census. Perhaps "knowledge industry" is a fair description after all.



"Here we go then – another day, another Su doku"

MO, FAREWELL THEN

OF ALL the eulogies paid to Mo Mowlam after her death, perhaps the most unlikely was that provided by Peter Mandelson in *The Guardian*. "Tributes to politicians, often maligned when in office, invariably become glowing encomia when the moment arrives," he wrote. "In Mo Mowlam's case, deservedly, praise and admiration were given during her life."

Indeed they were but if either was given by Mandelson, it was news to Mowlam. Here's what Andrew Rawnsley has to say in *Servants of the People*, his definitive account of the first New Labour term, about the build-up to the prime minister's decision to bring Mandelson back from exile to replace Mowlam as Northern Ireland secretary in 2000: "The heat was further turned up on her pressure cooker temper by the incessant media chatter that Mandelson was bound for Belfast. He [Mandelson] phoned Mowlam to deny all responsibility for planting these stories, telling her, 'I'm not angling for your job.' She answered his protestations of innocence with a hail of scornful expletives, and slammed down the phone. That evening, Mandelson rang Blair. 'I told her it wasn't me. She wouldn't believe me.' Blair replied: 'Well, she wouldn't. Would you?'"

In his *Guardian* article, Mandelson also spoke of Mowlam's role as co-chair of Tony Blair's leadership campaign in 1994. "She was ideally suited for the role, embodying the classless, modern, forward-thinking outlook that became Blair's trademark. She happily left the technical management of the campaign to Blair's personal team while busily creating a non-sectarian, feelgood atmosphere around the candidate from which he benefited considerably."

Really? It is a matter of public record that both Mowlam and Blair's other campaign manager, Peter Kilfoyle, were unaware of Mandelson's secret role ("Blair's personal team") in the technical management of the campaign and had they known, neither would have worked for Blair in the first place. As Mandelson well knows, this was why Blair was only able to refer to him as "Bobby" when he later offered thanks to those who had worked on his campaign.

TALKING to the *Mail on Sunday* a few days after Mo Mowlam's death, her husband Jon Norton was keen to point out that the brain tumour she suffered in 1997 had not recurred – instead, her death was a result of the sudden worsening of the side-effects of the radiotherapy treatment she had received at the time.

"It led to a shrinkage of the brain which put pressure on the blood vessels, causing them to fur up. It makes it harder for blood to get to all parts of the brain... It had caused a form of dementia… physically, she wasn't that ill but her brain was not good." In a moving piece which accompanied the interview, Mowlam's friend Betty Boothroyd revealed that she was among "the first she told about the brain tumour that dogged her over the last nine years."

This puts in rather a different light the infamous "whispering campaign" which Mowlam claimed was being waged against her five years ago, after un-named aides informed Jonathan Carr-Brown of the *Independent on Sunday* that the ongoing effects of Mowlam's brain tumour were making her behaviour "erratic" and that "she no longer appears to have the intellectual rigour to do the job." While several commentators recalled those remarks in their tributes to the ex-Northern Ireland secretary following her death, they were used solely as evidence for attacks on the prime minister and his acolytes which were almost McCririck-like in their intensity. Only one hack, in a *Guardian* obituary, admitted that her "idiosyncratic behaviour" during her final days in cabinet was "probably a symptom of the brain tumour" – step forward Julia Langdon, her biographer who at the time insisted that all such talk was the product of "Downing Street poisoner" Jonathan Powell.

ULSTER UPDATE

VISITORS to the always-entertaining www.ianpaisley.org are met with a quote from the book of Jeremiah: "Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish and conceal not."

The reverend "doctor", however, appears to have some problems following the prophet's advice. When questioned by hacks at Stormont in September 2004 about the state of his health, Paisley angrily told them that "you fellas can rave as much as you like – you'll maybe be in your coffins before I will."

Talk of heart or cancer scares was, he informed them, pure lies invented because "I happen to be a Protestant and journalists happen to be Romanists", and he had every expectation of being able to "take a few thousands of pounds off some newspapers who lied about me". His son Ian Paisley Jnr was equally firm: "If it was true that my father was dying, he would be the first to say to the public: 'By the way this is happening to me, you have the right to know as I have always told you what's happening to me.'" As the *Eye* noted at the time, the mere threat of writs was enough to ensure a series of fawning portrayals of him in the Belfast media (see *Eye* 1121).

Last week, with no writs having been served, son and fellow Kyle introduced his father to a congregation by telling them that "this is a special service for me in as much as last year my father was very, very ill. He said he was at death's door and it was a very testing time for him and my mum and all our family… I believe he was saved because people prayed for him."

PRESS coverage of leaked Home Office documents revealing the shortcomings of the government's satellite "tagging" tests concentrated on the global positioning systems' (GPS) technical flaws.

The systems could not penetrate everyday objects that offenders on probation might be lurking behind, such as clouds, leafy trees, tall buildings and trains.

Group 4 Securicor and Premier, the two companies running the trials, remained out of the press picture. The *Eye* called Group 4 Securicor, the world's second biggest security company, to ask how much responsibility they held for the trial flops, but they did not respond. In the past G4S has been much more keen to talk about GPS tags. In October 2004 the company magazine reported that the then Home Secretary David Blunkett, Home Office minister Paul Goggins and probation boss Martin Narey all attended a "satellite tracking launch" at "Securicor's Manchester control centre" where they heard that "the new technology will provide an added layer of public safety... providing extra intelligence about an offender's movements".

Serco, which owns Premier, the other GPS tracking operator, did answer the *Eye*'s calls, but only to refer all inquiries to the Home Office. Again, the firm has not been so shy in the past. PremierGeografix, Serco's tagging subsidiary, advertises its GPS tracking extensively on its website , promising that the units will report "violations such as leaving an inclusion zone or entering an exclusion zone".

But only tree and tall building-free zones, presumably.

1.30 Sunday Best: Yes Minister – the View from Whitehall
2/2. Former Tory prime minister William Hague explores the effects of 25 years of *Yes Minister* on Westminster and Whitehall. Producer Anthony Worrall (R)

Radio Times

In The Courts

WHILE attention was focused on the removal of the Israeli settlers in Gaza, the Israeli army started moves to grab other chunks of Palestinian land for its planned "separation barrier" around another large Jewish settlement in the West Bank, Ma'ale Adumim.

Like many miles of walls that have already gone up, deviating into Palestinian territory contrary to the internationally agreed "green line" – and which a year ago the International Court of Justice ruled illegal – it will separate Palestinians from their homes, lands and livelihood.

With the US and other western governments appearing to turn a blind eye, UK lawyers, acting on behalf of War on Want, other human rights groups and individuals who have lost their homes, are preparing to take legal action in the UK and Europe to try and force international pressure upon Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon.

In an unprecedented case, they are alleging that the UK and the EU have failed to take the action required of them under the Geneva conventions to ensure Israel complies with international humanitarian law. UN special rapporteurs have already called on the EU to suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement, under which Israeli exports enjoy preferential access to EU markets.

Last month London-based solicitors Hickman and Rose, as a first step towards action in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, have formally requested president José Manuel Barroso of the European Commission and UK foreign secretary Jack Straw to provide evidence of all written communication with the Israeli authorities (including minutes of meetings and internal memoranda) relating to the separation wall since the ICJ ruling of July 2004.

WHEN Lord Saville's inquiry into the events on Bloody Sunday was established, one of the chief fears expressed by commentators was that witnesses risked being murdered by disgruntled terrorists if they were forced to give evidence.

The recent deaths of star witness Edward Heath and former Ulster secretary Mo Mowlam suggest that it is much more likely everyone involved will have been carried away by old age or disease before the good lord has concluded his business.

In the seven-and-a-half years since Tony Blair announced the inquiry, the 9/11 commission into 3,000 deaths in New York, Janet Smith's inquiry into Harold Shipman's 250 murders, the Cullen inquiry into the 31 deaths in the Paddington rail crash, not to mention the Hutton, Butler and Stephen Lawrence inquiries have all come and gone.

Last November, when he and his colleagues finally retired to put pen to paper, Lord Saville confidently predicted that his final report would be ready at some point this summer. On 12 August, this was corrected by a new announcement on the inquiry's website. It is now apparently "not possible at this stage to give any firm estimate of when the report is likely to be finished."

LORD FALCONER'S legal services commission (LSC), which is responsible for distributing legal aid, is in a financial bind.

On the one hand Falconer tries to curb spiralling legal aid costs (over £2bn a year now and rising); on the other, he faces complaints from barristers that they are underpaid for legal aid cases. Efficiency is the new watchword in deciding lawyers' pay.

So it's good to know that the LSC is making efficient use of its budget by, er, hiring management consultants to help it save money. PA Consulting have been brought on board to assist with the commission's preferred supplier scheme. But just what are they doing? Happily, the LSC's newsletter *Focus* provides a full explanation: "PA Consulting… provide a 'challenge function' to the evaluation outputs and… develop an implementation feasibility study to determine operational delivery."

So now you know.

REVOLVING DOORS

SIR IAN BLAIR may be wondering what the world offers to a former head of the Metropolitan Police.

He should be reassured by the career of his predecessor, John Stevens. Lord Stevens retired in January. In April he joined the board of LGC, a leading "diagnostic" firm selling chemical, biological and forensic analysis to police forces and other bodies. LGC said: "During his distinguished career with the police he took a close interest in the development of forensic science".

He was probably aware, then, that in 2003, when he was still commissioner, the Metropolitan Police gave LGC a contract to "analyse the Met's crime scene DNA samples in the first competitive tender of its kind". Also in 2003 another firm, Forensic Alliance, announced that they and their US partners had a multi-million dollar contract to analyse Met crime scene DNA.

LGC is, as it happens, currently buying its competitor and fellow supplier to the Met, Forensic Alliance.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

THE GREAT "bra wars" fiasco highlights yet again the infinite capacity of Brussels to screw up the international trading system, usually to the detriment of everyone involved.

No one will benefit from the fact that millions of cheap Chinese bras, trousers, jumpers and T-shirts are piling up in warehouses across Europe, not even the French textile firms whose tireless lobbying persuaded trade commissioner Peter Mandelson to impose this insane ban. The larger European clothing chains are simply seeking replacements from other countries in the Third World. Meanwhile their smaller competitors will be left with empty shelves, having already paid for clothing which Mandy now prohibits them from selling.

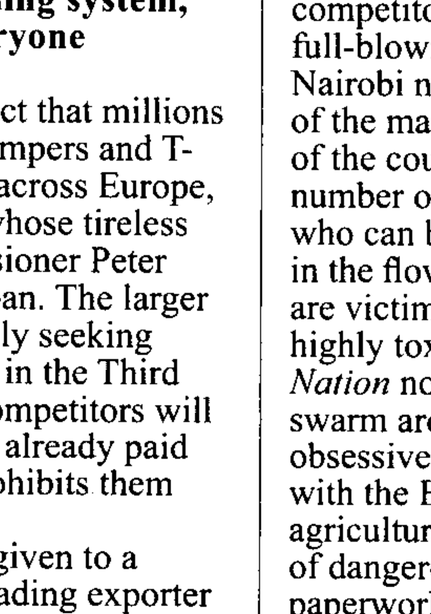
Rather less publicity has been given to a tragedy unfolding in Kenya, the leading exporter of flowers to Europe. In the past two decades this trade has been one of the few real success stories in Mr Blair's favourite continent, since Kenya now supplies a quarter of all the flowers the EU imports. Fifteen years ago 70 percent of the flowers, fruit and veg imported from Kenya were grown by hundreds of small farmers. At that point, however, big multi-national firms, many European-owned, began to muscle in. By 2000 the smallholders' share of the market had been cut to 18 percent. This year came the final coup de grace for Kenya's small farmers, when Brussels issued EU regulation 178/2005.

This new law imposes such complicated requirements on the growers, involving vast quantities paperwork, that only big firms can hope to comply. Smaller growers are being driven out of business. It is predicted that soon the number of registered growers in Kenya's flower industry will have fallen from 200 to just six.

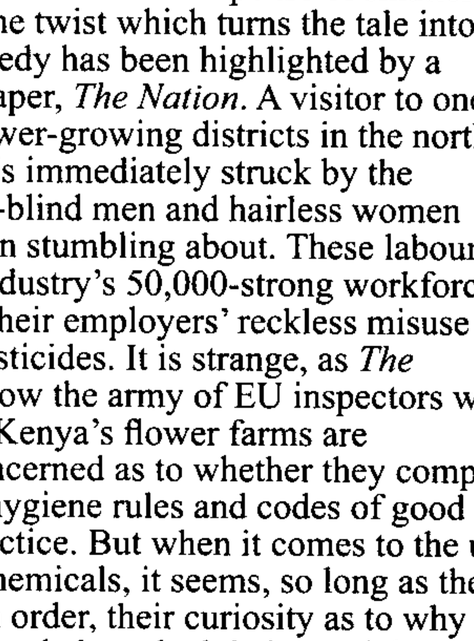
But there is more to this than yet another triumph for the "efficiency" (and lobbying power) of the multi-nationals at the expense of smaller competitors. The twist which turns the tale into a full-blown tragedy has been highlighted by a Nairobi newspaper, *The Nation*. A visitor to one of the main flower-growing districts in the north of the country is immediately struck by the number of half-blind men and hairless women who can be seen stumbling about. These labourers in the flower industry's 50,000-strong workforce are victims of their employers' reckless misuse of highly toxic pesticides. It is strange, as *The Nation* notes, how the army of EU inspectors who swarm around Kenya's flower farms are obsessively concerned as to whether they comply with the EU's hygiene rules and codes of good agricultural practice. But when it comes to the use of dangerous chemicals, it seems, so long as the paperwork is in order, their curiosity as to why thousands of people have had their eyesight and health destroyed is non-existent.

Further north in Uganda, when the government wished to use DDT to prevent tens of thousands of people dying of malaria, Brussels was quick to use its powers under international trade rules to ensure it did not happen.

EU-phemisms



The C.A.P benefits France



I'm French

EDUCASHUN

A VALUE-for-money review carried out by Becta, the government's education technology agency, concluded that the "dominant supplier" of education management software, Capita, had increased licensing costs by 300 percent over three years, while failing to make a full contractual commitment to supply kit on time and in a working condition.

With delicious understatement, Becta described the situation as "sub-optimal". This follows a year of outstanding failure even by Crapita's pisspoor standards. Last summer Crapita finally updated Sims, its ancient schools management software system, used in around 85 percent of schools. Nine months later they were still picking the bugs out of the system. Schools lost records, including pupils' addresses and parent contact details. In January, when schools had to make census returns to the DfES, many could not retrieve the necessary information from their systems.

Becta's review followed this debacle. They estimate the cost of providing and supporting management software in schools in England is at least £180m a year. Software controls staff and pupil records, finance and timetabling. Additional modules used by many schools also organise exam entries and record pupil attendance.

Alternative suppliers do exist, including Serco and RM, but Becta found there were "considerable impediments to the exercise of effective choice" by schools; not least because Crapita has such a cosy relationship with local councils advising schools on what to buy.

How come all this has passed under the nation's radar? It could be because Becta chose to release the report on the day the A-level results were published. Definitely a good time to bury bad news – but why is a government agency so keen to spare Crapita's blushes?

MIXED-RACED male 44, painter & desecrator by trade, likes beach walks, quiet pubs, seeks submissive female, for friendship and more.

Free paper, Brighton

FIVE

Test Cricket (Channel 4)
Test Cricket (Sky One)

IMAGINE you had a child who'd suddenly got interested in something: stamps, horses, chemistry, whatever. They spend the summer reading about it, going to watch public events, devouring anything they can find about it on television or in the newspapers. And then, at the end of the summer, you say: "Okay, kid. Glad you found an interest. But we're going to lock all that stuff in the cupboard so you won't be able to see it again."

You'd have social services round within minutes, trying to give your offspring to a couple with a higher IQ. But the above – in television terms – is exactly what the English cricket authorities have just done with their sport. From next summer, live international cricket will only be available to Sky subscribers.

Of course, you can say that the chaps in the blazers weren't to know that this cut-off would come at the end of one of the finest England-Australia test series ever but that doesn't excuse their greedy selling out to Murdoch's traditional tactic of blackmailing viewers to subscribe by holding popular genres hostage.

Many people in the worlds of both sport and televised sport resist the idea of change on principle. So let's be clear about two things. First, the BBC deserved to lose its cricket coverage: with the exception of Richie Benaud (who was, anyway, invented as a commentator by Australian television), the corporation specialised in plodding commentators (Jim Laker, Jack Bannister), dull pundits (Tom Graveney) and sleepy anchors (Tony Lewis). Cricket, for the BBC, has always been a wireless event.

Second, it has by no means always been the case that Sky Sports destroys the coverage of games it steals: football, for example, has been televised to at least BBC standards, with some of the commentary team (Martin Tyler, Andy Gray) even ahead of their terrestrial equivalents.

But the problem is that cricket is an area in which Sky has never flourished. With the exception of Michael Holding (probably the most sheerly likeable pundit on the box), its teams have been weighted down with former England cricketers who are either bland (David Gower), dull (Bob Willis, Paul Allott), boringly self-obsessed (Ian Botham), or irritatingly mouthy in a comedy Northern accent (David Lloyd). Each obsessed with his own era of English cricket, none betrays any interest in the English language, speaking a stream of locker-room jargon ("E needs to be bowling in't zone, Beefy", "That one's his percentage shot") without any talent for atmosphere or drama.

In contrast, Channel 4, after an over-frenetic start (with girl reporters and too many technical gimmicks) has genuinely developed coverage of the sport. It's true that Michael Jackson, then head of C4, initially bought it for the wrong reasons (mainly to annoy BBC2) but what's been seen on screen has been consistently impressive. The "snickometer" and the computerised graphic showing the path of the ball in LBW shouts are hugely useful for viewers (if irritating for umpires) and, in bringing on Michael Atherton as a commentator, the channel is the first to find a plausible successor to Richie Benaud.

Sky, with its traditional instinct to steal rather than innovate, has already nicked Athers for next summer, and has tried to get Benaud, although he's unlikely to go because of a contract with the Digger's big Oz enemy, Packer. But, while the obvious hope is that such signings might lift up Sky's coverage, an equal risk is that they would be dragged down to its level.

Even more worrying is that the highlights package that will become cricket's only terrestrial television presence from 2006 has gone to Five. This deal was seen at the time as part of the former soft-porn channel's new alleged seriousness.

However, the shows in Five's recent factual revamp – such as *Ideas That Changed The World* (Desmond Tutu given 45 minutes to do the whole of Christianity) and *Don't Get Me Started* (Michael Buerk on why wimmin stink) – suggest that Five's makeover actually involves treating serious programme genres as if they were soft-porn. It's terrifying to think what this might mean for cricket, but expect the action on the pitch to be treated as an irritating interruption to flashy graphics and cheeky little features about celebrities who share the name of a famous cricketer: Abi and Fred Titmuss, Rosie and Geoff Boycott, Dizzy and Jason Gillespie.

At a time when there's more interest in cricket in Britain than there has been for 20 years, it sadly looks as if television will be unable to enforce the follow-on.

'Remote Controller'

"Well, don't come running to me in a fortnight's time asking for help on 'What I did in my school holidays'"

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"In my experience, women are more efficient and caring in the workplace. It is absurd to generalise." – Michael Buerk, *Press Gazette*.

THE BBC likes to emphasise its pledge to make a third of all its radio and TV programmes outside London and the South East: its commitment to the "regions" is, after all, a central element of the case for charter renewal.

But the corporation is less happy to broadcast the fact that a much larger chunk of this programme-making will not actually be made by the BBC in the regions, but by independent companies.

Staff at BBC Wales, for example, have just seen an entire 16 week arts series handed to an independent on a plate – indeed, they were not even asked to submit a proposal for the slot. With the work "outsourced", nine of them face redundancy.

"RADIO 3 not in crisis – official", say the mandarins at Broadcasting House. One wouldn't expect them to say anything else. But to anyone who actually works for what was once proud to call itself a classical music station, it's a different story. Morale is at an all time low, thanks to two interesting little bombshells.

One was an ominous letter circulated to production staff inviting them to apply for redundancy: the long-debated BBC cuts striking home and representing in the eyes of many the first move in a long campaign of enforced departures.

The other was a depressing bunch of statistics from the radio monitoring organisation Rajar, showing Radio 3's listening figures to be the lowest since records began: down again, after a steady decline in recent years, to a mere 1.1 percent share of the listening audience, against Classic FM's 4.3 percent.

As the redundancy notices circulate, so do the rumours. Are controller Roger Wright's days in charge numbered?

ONE aspect of the BBC's case for charter renewal is its continuing support for community and educational projects. Take, for example, its scheme to encourage children's literacy skills – much trumpeted to the DCMS.

Alas, this initiative is being wound up in order to make the cash savings promised in another part of the bid for charter renewal.

Indeed the Beeb's entire educational team audience services unit, described in the blurb sent to Tessa Jowell as "one of the BBC's Rolls-Royce departments" is being sacrificed on the altar of the corporation's "Value For Money" plan.

WITHER the "democratisation of the media" so confidently predicted after the London bombings, now that it emerges that the eyewitnesses on the train at Stockwell, where Jean Charles de Menezes was shot by police, did not see anything like what they thought they saw?

Four days after the suicide attacks on 7 July, BBC director of news Helen Boaden was confidently telling *The Guardian* that the increasing use of "user-generated material" in rolling news would prompt a "gear change", because it "shows there is a terrific level of trust between the audience and us, creating a more intimate relationship than in the past". Such intimacy was certainly in evidence on 22 July when, within a few minutes of de Menezes' death, BBC News 24 went live with the eyewitness account of fellow passenger Mark Whitby. Whitby's account of seeing an "Asian guy… quite large, big built, sort of chubby" wearing "a coat like you would wear in winter, a sort of padded jacket" run onto the train before tripping and having "five shots unloaded into him" was hailed as a "terrific scoop" by *Press Gazette* and was widely quoted in all subsequent media coverage of the incidents. Disturbingly, it also appears to have been the sole basis for a series of statements in the following 24 hours by Met commissioner Sir Ian Blair.

An understandably traumatised Whitby, who has given an account to the IPPC investigators, says he has "thought long and hard about it and I now believe that I could have been looking at the surveillance officer", which certainly appears to have been the case with the various witnesses who saw a man they assumed to be the suspect vaulting the barriers at the station.

Meanwhile, over at ITN, ITV's news provider was begging the public, "If you are on the spot when news happens, please send ITN News any images or video you take on your mobile phone". This all presumably explains why, on 29 July, extra police officers had to be drafted in to an arrest scene on the concourse at Liverpool Street Station to clear the crowd of 30 or so phone-wielding passengers who had gathered round to snap the scuffle.

AT THE same time as Ofcom was admonishing Channel 4's *Richard and Judy* for its egregious displays of product placement last month, it was waving through an even more outrageous example of commercial interests leaving their mark on editorial content.

The Guardian Sports Show took up residence on Channel 4 in early August. It is a virtual replica of *Sports Talk* which had preceded it, with hacks and faded sports star sitting on a sofa and engaging in idle banter about the week in sport. With one difference – *Sports Talk* didn't have the name of a national newspaper in its title. The *Guardian*'s logo also appears at the front and end credits, as well as on its respective page on Channel 4's web-site. The programme is officially co-funded by the newspaper. It is, in essence, a sponsorship arrangement.

The *Eye* asked Ofcom if the fact that the programme was branded by the *Guardian* ran counter to its guidelines on sponsorship of television programmes. Ofcom had, in fact, issued revised guidelines on this on 25 July – two weeks before *The Guardian Sports Show* first aired. As luck would have it, these guidelines neatly sidestep the issue. What they do say, however, is that "there should be no references to the sponsorship arrangement within the sponsored programme" and that "a reference to a sponsor within the programme must not be a condition of the sponsorship arrangement". The first guideline is surely breached the moment the presenter says, "Hello and welcome to *The Guardian Sports Show*". In the case of the second, it beggars belief that the *Grauniad* would have agreed to co-fund the programme if its name were not billed in the title.

What this effectively means is that from now on advertisers can buy their way into a programme's listing and all the brand exposure that comes with it. Watch out for such gems as *Domestos's How Clean is Your House?* and *Ralph Lauren's What Not To Wear* in the near future.

O·B·N

At 53, Trudie's husband is a loose and relaxed presence, with a Beckhamesque physique, the humour and timing of a dry Geordie comedian, and the undersold intellectual charge of a quiet Oxford don. It's a lot to match up to, but somehow Trudie does. She is voluptuous, sexy, direct, open, glad-handing, open *[sic]*, out-there. She has the confidence of someone comfortable in her skin – the confidence of the assured actress, the professional producer, the can-cope-with-anything mother of four.

GEORDIE GREIG interviews Trudie Styler and Sting
Tatler

Submitted by Richard Rhydderch

THE repertoire of the band of the Grenadier Guards may be more eclectic than previously thought.

Visitors to the Royal Mail's website can view a stamp commemorating the Queen's official birthday. It shows Prince Philip dressed in his uniform as colonel of the Grenadier Guards. "Throughout its history the Grenadier Guards have been privileged to have many great and famous Colonels," the commentary enthuses, "including the Duke of Marlborough [and] the Duke of Ellington". No mention, alas, of the Count of Basie.

DUMB BRITAIN

The Weakest Link, BBC2

Anne Robinson: Which word links an operation on the heart with a detour around a town or a village?

Contestant: Ring road.

Robinson: The cedar tree appears on the flag of which Middle Eastern country with a coastline on the Mediterranean?

Contestant: Canada.

National Lottery - In It To Win It, BBC1

Dale Winton: Skegness is a seaside resort on the coast of which sea: a) Irish Sea, b) English Channel, c) North Sea?

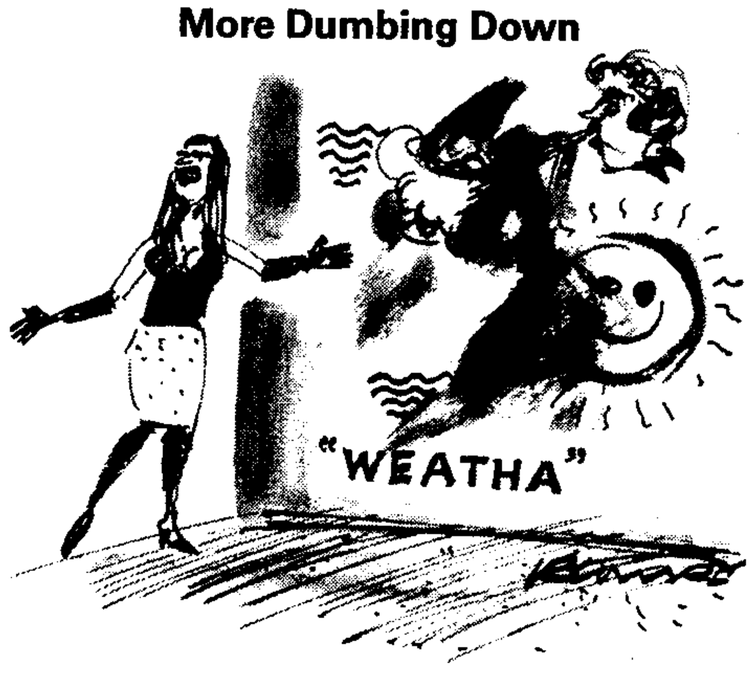
Contestant: Oh I know that, you can start writing out the cheque now Dale. It's on the east coast, so it must be the Irish Sea.

I-SKY

"SKY HIGH… Sexy Soccer AM host Helen Chamberlain netted £223,000 at poker yesterday. The Sky Sports telly star beat top players to be runner-up in Sky's Poker Millions game."

—*The Sun* (prop. R. Murdoch) on a Sky Sports 1 (prop. R. Murdoch) presenter's victory in a Sky Sports 2 (prop. R. Murdoch) programme.

More Dumbing Down



AD NAUSEAM

A FRENZY of PR-led excitement at Nike's new poster campaign, which uses meandering odes to hips, butts and thunderous thighs to herald a supposedly more authentic view of femininity.

Much has been made in the press of how, on the back of Dove's "campaign for real women", this suggests a sea-change in advertisers' attitudes to women. From now on, the theory goes, Kate Moss *et al* will be put out to grass while Doris next door becomes cover-girl of choice. Oh yeah?

It is worth reiterating that that these campaigns "for real women" are first and foremost campaigns to sell more products. Marks & Spencer tried a similar tactic in 2001, with a heavily-hyped TV spot featuring a size-17 woman running up a hill. Four years on their commitment to improving women's body-image continues with the current campaign featuring, er, supermodel Helena Christensen.

THERE is no conclusive scientific evidence for people with allergies being much dimmer than everyone else. Unless Tesco has some and is keeping it to itself, that is.

A carton of Tesco semi-skimmed organic milk warns: "Allergy advice: Contains milk". So does a packet of farmhouse cheddar, which some people know to be a type of cheese. A lemon sole fillet, we are advised, "contains fish", cold water prawns "contain shellfish", and, inevitably, flaked almonds "contain nuts".

SUPERMODELS

KERBER

MEN'S VOGUE BEING LAUNCHED !!!
VOGUE!
GOSH, ALL THESE SLIM, MASCULINE BODIES.....
AND NOW THERE'S A MEN'S MAGAZINE AS WELL !!!
GOSH !
MEN'S VOGUE

DOING THE ROUNDS

ARE MEDICAL journals just an extension of the pharmaceutical industry? *Eye* reader and University of Dundee research fellow Tom Love has unearthed some evidence. "The *British Medical Journal* is available free to anyone online, accompanied by Google ads. A while ago I was actually moved to click on one. It was for this stuff called Angioprim (http://www.yourticker.com/), which cleans swimming pools and removes calcium from your arteries (and which has been the subject of a warning from the American Food and Drug Administration: http://www.fda.gov/foi/warning_letters/g5223d.htm).

"Every item in the online *BMJ* has four Google ads next to it. After seeing the Angioprim ad I systematically checked all the ads on pages for editorials and articles in that week's issue and at least a third were for quack remedies and advice which are at best ineffective and at worst potentially harmful. Also, there was a particularly nice juxtaposition of an editorial about clinical leadership and reducing clinical errors with ads for ambulance-chasing personal injury law firms."

The BMJ has no disclaimer about ads appearing on its site. It takes (appropriately) a very strict line on disclosure of conflict of interest by researchers who may have received funding from pharmaceutical companies, but does not seem to have any problem with accepting money for advertising ineffective or dangerous health care products. However Richard Smith, the former editor of the BMJ who jumped ship to United Health, believes that drug advertising is not the main problem (see www.plosmedicine.org May 2005, Volume 2, Issue 5). Although it's a clear signal of a journal's financial dependence on the industry, ads are so up-front and conspicuous, that they're easy to disregard. Much harder to spot is the bias of industry-sponsored randomised controlled trials. "Readers see randomised controlled trials as one of the highest forms of evidence. A large trial published in a major journal has the journal's stamp of approval and may well receive global media coverage... A company will sometimes spend upwards of a million dollars on reprints of the trial."

Amazingly (or not), studies funded by a company are four times more likely to have results favourable to the company than studies funded from other sources. So how do drug companies manage to get the results they want? The tactics, according to Smith, are numerous. You can conduct a trial of your drug against a treatment known to be inferior. Or trial your drugs against too low a dose of a competitor drug. Or use too high a dose (making the competitor seem toxic). You can use multiple endpoints and just publish the one that's favourable. Or do multi-centre trials ands just publish the favourable centres, or even just publish a subgroup that seems to work.

The bottom line, however, is to construct the trial well enough to get into peer reviewed journals, which only drug companies have the resources to do. Between two-thirds and three-quarters of the trials published in the major journals are funded by the industry. But if the industry doesn't fund this research, who will? Higher taxes for more publicly-funded research. Now there's a vote winner.

M.D.

off your trolley

REEVE & WAY

SIGNAL FAILURES

Q: *WHAT do you call an infrastructure upgrade that's several times over budget, years late and isn't providing many of the promised benefits?*

A: A success – if you're an official body with an unshakeable faith in PFI, that is.

It hasn't taken former strategic rail authority (SRA) boss Richard Bowker long to land another lucrative taxpayer-funded position, following his departure from the SRA with a £300,000 pay-off last month.

He has been appointed chief executive of Partnerships for Schools (PfS), the joint venture between the government's privatised PFI promoter Partnerships UK (PUK) and the Department for Education that will manage the government's plans to upgrade every secondary school in the country over the next 15 years. For this important job Bowker will earn a basic £200,000 a year plus a guaranteed £50,000 first year bonus.

Announcing his appointment, PfS said Bowker's "strong and clear leadership for the whole industry" had resulted in "the successful delivery of the multi-billion pound West Coast main line route modernisation".

Back in the real world, there are still years more work to be done on the West Coast line, under an upgrade programme started by Railtrack and Virgin for completion in 2002. Left in the private sector's hands, the job would now be even further off course. Network Rail (NR), basically a nationalised company, took over from Railtrack and managed at least to get the London-Manchester section ready for Richard Branson's tilting trains last year. But even that section is far from finished. Tracks for commuter trains out of Euston are in such bad nick they're inspected on foot, forcing slower trains onto the main tracks and delaying Beardie's expresses (*Eye* 1125). New points near Bletchley for trains to switch tracks at high speed are locked out of use pending connection in 2008, and at Stockport a station platform built three years ago still awaits connection before it can be used. The Crewe-Glasgow section still needs basic renewal.

NR forces passengers onto roads or airlines by temporarily closing chunks of the route to save money on renewal work. The mainline will be closed in six areas each weekend from September to December. Some local trains have been replaced by buses for so long most of the passengers have deserted, facilitating station closures (*Eye* 1135) which didn't feature in the original scheme.

The most worrying aspect of PfS's self-delusion, given its mega-plans for school buildings, is the idea the West Coast rail project was a financial success. The whole infrastructure upgrade is costing more than £7bn, up from £2.1bn, even after key elements were ditched (top speed will be 125mph from 2006, not 140mph as promised, and there's no longer mention of a high-tech signalling system to increase route capacity). The upgrade work that is happening wouldn't be possible without massive government borrowing guarantees and grants. Then there's the small matter of Branson's West Coast train franchise, which he won by promising to pay the government a £1.2bn premium over 10 years but which is instead consuming huge and disproportionate subsidy (*Eyes passim*).

For all this public expenditure, washed down with some of Europe's highest train fares, we're getting a Virgin West Coast service shown in latest statistics as 75 percent punctual – down from 82 percent the same time last year.

Whilst Bowker's new job was openly advertised, his prospects can't have been harmed by the presence on the PUK board of a number of rail privatisation enthusiasts. Among them are Sir Steve Robson, the treasury mandarin behind the plan to carve up the railways in the first place; and Nicholas Lethbridge, a colleague of Bowker's in the mid 90s at financiers Babcock & Brown, when the pair were busy setting up the train operating companies that made a mint out of privatisation.

The companies set to cash in on the tens of billions of pounds under Bowker's control at PfS will be delighted to hear his views on making large amounts of money, recently vouchsafed to *Rail* magazine readers: "We should reject the notion that if someone's making a profit it's terrible and they must be stopped. Remember – the one and only source of money that governments have to spend on hospitals and schools and railways and so on is from taxation. And a thumping great wedge of it comes from taxing company profits."

He strangely failed to mention that the greatest beneficiary of his stint at the SRA, his former employer Virgin, has only ever returned to the exchequer a negligible proportion of its billions in subsidies. And as the *Eye* has revealed in the past, the PFI companies to which he'll now be doling out the contracts are similarly adept at minimising their tax bills.

'Dr B Ching'

THE COMMUTERS
I'VE BEEN WAITING AGES!
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT'S BEEN CANCELLED...
I WANT ANOTHER FAT STAGECOACH DIVIDEND NOW..!
SRizelda

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

STANDARDS BOARD SPECIAL

NEXT WEEK sees local government watchdog the Standards Board for England's annual assembly in Birmingham, where some 800 local councillors, officers and lay members of council standards committees will gather to pontificate about ethics. But is the SBE, which in 2004-05 logged 3,861 allegations against councillors, fulfilling its stated mission of "building confidence in local democracy" – or the reverse?

Most of the complaints received by the SBE don't reach first base, with three-quarters being kicked out without an investigation by an "ethical standards officer". These are the irrelevant, those not covered by legislation and much politically-inspired tit-for-tat. Of the 1,000 or so that are left some 75 per cent are found to require no further action, even in cases where the code of conduct has been breached.

That still leaves 200+ cases, about a third of which are referred back for sentencing to local council monitoring officers or upwards to the sinisterly-titled "adjudication panel for England" (Ape), which has the power to suspend or disqualify an elected councillor for up to five years. The only appeal is through the courts. As a judicial review costs at least £10,000, there are not many appeals.

APE SHIT

ONE concern from the start has been that the Standards Board would be used by political parties as a stick with which to beat their opponents. The case earlier this year of Paul Dimoldenberg, the Labour councillor who blew the whistle on Westminster city council's tardiness in recovering millions of pounds owed by disgraced former Tory leader Shirley Porter, is a case in point (*Eyes passim*). Dimoldenberg was clearly acting in the public interest when he revealed "confidential" documents to the BBC. Westminster's ruling Tories had him hauled before the SBE in an act of political spite, at great cost to the taxpayer. Fortunately the members of the adjudication panel had enough *nous* to realise that suspending or banning Dimoldenberg would be such an injustice as to cause uproar. So they declared he was guilty of breaking the local government code of conduct and "bringing the council into disrepute" – but would not face any penalty. Which piece of nonsense, in the Alice in Wonderland world of the SBE and Ape, made perfect sense.

● IT WAS ONLY to be expected that politicians would attempt to use the Standards Board to score points off one another – it's what they do. The SBE is well aware of the danger. "We are not here to hold the ring for councillors to have a go at each other," says its spokesman. More sinister has been the way that unelected council officers have attempted to use the threat of the SBE to take power away from elected members – thereby undermining democracy, rather than "building confidence" in it. Independent Hull city councillor Nadene Burton was suspended for five months by the adjudication panel in July last year. Her crime was to have been "disrespectful" to council officers (*Eye* 1116). She had claimed in an election newsletter that Hull's housing department could do a better job in tackling anti-social behaviour on estates in the north of the city. Exactly the sort of issue, one might think, on which a conscientious councillor might be expected to have an opinion – especially as Hull's no-star housing department, like the rest of the council, is classed as "poor" by the audit commission. Yet the SBE allowed itself to be used by unelected officers to stifle legitimate debate.

NUCLEAR TEST

GINA DOWDING, a Green Party member of Lancaster City council, was banned from holding office for three months in November 2003 following a year-long investigation by the SBE.

In October 2002 she revealed that the council's cabinet had taken a secret decision to allow British Energy's Heysham nuclear power station to defer paying business rates for three months, costing the taxpayer £18,000 – a privilege not accorded to smaller local businesses or council tax payers. (British Energy had recently received a £650m government loan and had had similar financial favours from four other local authorities with nuclear power stations in their areas.)

Cllr Dowding was reported to the SBE by the then leader of the council, independent Cllr Patricia Heath, on the grounds that she had "disclosed information given to her in confidence". That the matter was clearly of considerable public interest was deemed irrelevant.

In May 2003, seven months after Dowding was reported to the SBE, and with the investigation still plodding on, local elections were held. Gina Dowding won two-thirds of the votes cast in her ward, trouncing her Labour, Tory and Lib Dem rivals. Council leader Heath was booted out by the voters.

A month later the EU ruled that the rate deferral amounted to unlawful state aid. With Dowding seemingly vindicated, the SBE could have dropped its long and costly investigation. Instead it dragged on for a further five months, eventually referring her to the adjudication panel, which suspended her for three months. Ms Dowding did not have the £10,000 or more necessary for an appeal to the High Court, so she was forced to sit out her ban.

IN FOR THE GILL

IF ONE can raise the dosh to challenge the erratic findings of the SBE in a proper court, the results are interesting. East Riding of Yorkshire councillor Coleen Gill scraped together the £10,000 she needed to mount a High Court appeal against a year-long disqualification imposed in December last year. Mrs Gill, a Lib Dem councillor for 18 years, had sat in unofficially as a "friend" on a meeting between social workers and "Mrs A", a constituent who felt that social services' attempts to put her two children on the child protection register was unfair. Gill did not speak at the meeting and social workers didn't realise she was a councillor. She then passed information about the case, at Mrs A's request, to local MP David Davis. Cllr Gill was hauled before the SBE for "compromising the impartiality" of council officers, "using her position to confer an advantage" and "bringing her office and authority into disrepute". Even though the social services investigation into Mrs A was itself subsequently dropped without action, the case against Cllr Gill lumbered on and she was disqualified. Her crime? Annoying social services in an effort to be kind to someone in trouble, even if, as she admits, she didn't go about it in the right way.

After the decision friends set up a support group and fighting fund. Mrs Gill went to the High Court on 26 July to mount a legal challenge to her disqualification. The Standards Board did not turn up for the hearing and the judge directed that her disqualification be reduced to a backdated three-month suspension. Last week the SBE agreed to repay Cllr Gill's £10,000 legal expenses. Later in September, at the Lib Dem conference in Blackpool, she will speak in favour of a motion committing the party to abolishing the Standards Board. Scrapping the SBE is already Tory policy.

ALIEN JUSTICE

IT'S GOOD to know that the Standards Board and this column see eye-to-eye over some things. Last December we awarded Stowmarket town councillor – now Suffolk county councillor – Keith Myers-Hewitt our "Tory Bigot of the Year" award after he spotted two black men and an Asian couple using the computers in the town's library and asked his wife: "Have aliens landed or is it an invasion of darkies?" (*Eye* 1113)

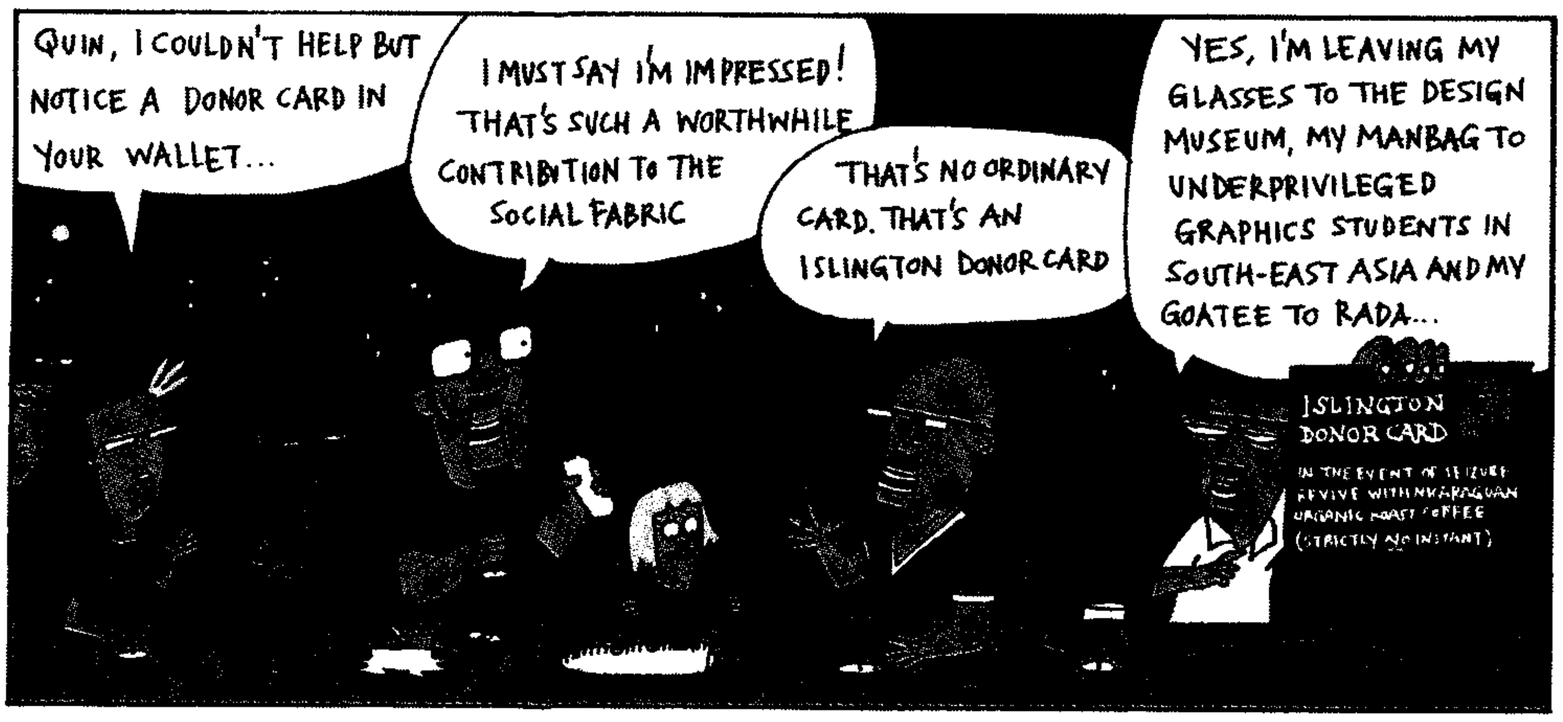
Last week the SBE's tortuous investigation process culminated with an adjudication panel for England ruling that, yes, Cllr Myers-Hewitt had indeed make racist remarks. And, concluded the panel, his attempt to explain it away as a joke about *Star Wars* was, well, a load of science fiction.

Eye 1136 told how Cllr Myers-Hewitt, who is in his 70s, told the SBE that he had been misheard. He had been inspired by his son's enthusiasm for both computers and science fiction to make the *Star Wars* quip. "Bloomin' 'eck Beryl," he claimed to have said. "Are we being invaded by aliens – people from the Dark Side?"

The panel described this excuse as "vague" and "contrived". Yet chairman Simon Bird said the councillor *hadn't* breached Stowmarket town council's code of conduct by bringing his office or authority into disrepute and would therefore face no further action.

How racially abusing people and then making up ludicrous excuses when caught out doesn't bring the office into disrepute is unclear. Maybe someone had been using Jedi mind tricks on the panel.

IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON KNIFE & PACKER


QUIN, I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE A DONOR CARD IN YOUR WALLET...
I MUST SAY I'M IMPRESSED! THAT'S SUCH A WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIAL FABRIC
THAT'S NO ORDINARY CARD. THAT'S AN ISLINGTON DONOR CARD
YES, I'M LEAVING MY GLASSES TO THE DESIGN MUSEUM, MY MANBAG TO UNDERPRIVILEGED GRAPHICS STUDENTS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND MY GOATEE TO RADA...
ISLINGTON DONOR CARD

NOOKS and CORNERS

I MAKE no apology for returning, yet again, to Liverpool – it is to be European City of Culture in 2008 and will receive large dollops of public money. In principle the city fully deserves the accolade. It can boast magnificent museums and art galleries and contains a large number of fine (and, yes, old) buildings.

Liverpool likes to boasts that it has more listed buildings than any other authority outside the City of London. At present, there are 1,468 entries for listed buildings in the statutory register (26 at Grade I), representing some 2,500 properties (the discrepancy occurs because two or more houses may be listed under one entry). Some 500 of these properties are owned by the city council.

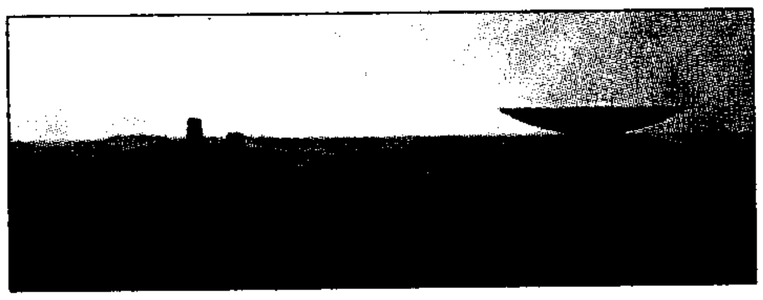
The city council is doing its best to reduce this number (*Eyes passim ad nauseam*). Two more went in June: a pair of Georgian houses in St Anne Street, on the corner of Springfield. Long vacant, they were listed at Grade II and were the only survivors in what was once Liverpool's most fashionable street. The obvious thing to do was to restore them for residential use but, instead, the council granted planning permission and listed building consent last year for partial demolition to make way for a new fire station. The applicant was Grosvenor Estates. This site is a long way from Grosvenor's big Strand/Paradise Street development in the city centre. Perhaps they were just helping out the council.

The plan was that the facades were to be retained, yet they were demolished once building work commenced. According to the city's principal conservation officer "it became evident during the course of the controlled deconstruction that the building had suffered from internal structural interventions that weakened the integrity of the overall fabric. The poor structural condition of the building prevented any strengthening works being carried out before the approved deconstruction work commenced". In fact, although long neglected, these buildings had not been vandalised and, in view of their age and condition, one might have expected that special care would have been taken to ensure their safety if it was really intended to preserve the facades. As Liverpool's Save Our City campaign points out, this is not the first case of this kind. The Casartelli building and adjoining warehouses, houses in Wood Street, the surviving side of Cleveland Square and an 18th century watchmaker's workshop in Slater Street have all been lost in recent years because they all turned out to be, er, "dangerous structures" after building work commenced. Only Glasgow – another "city of culture" – has a worse record.

Grosvenor Estates have now submitted a retrospective listed building consent application for the demolition of the St Anne Street buildings and a new planning application for a new corner building on the site. The Georgian Group has written to ask "in view of the seriousness of this violation of planning law" whether "Liverpool city council are minded to take legal action in this case?" Some hope.

RATHER than show depressing destroyed Georgian houses, my picture depicts an exciting vision of the future. At the moment, the traveller passing through Durham can only enjoy the unique, dramatic outline of the castle and cathedral against the sky, which Pevsner considered "one of the great experiences of Europe".

But something so essentially backward-looking surely won't do in the new millennium – least of all in the New Labour heartland. So now the familiar skyline will be challenged and enhanced by a giant dish placed on the top of a hill at Aykley Heads near county hall to the north of the ancient city. Designed by the "internationally-renowned" Swedish sculptor,



Pal Svensson, this will be a 50ft diameter stainless steel bowl into which visitors can ascend to experience the sublime effect of the sky reflected on its polished surface.

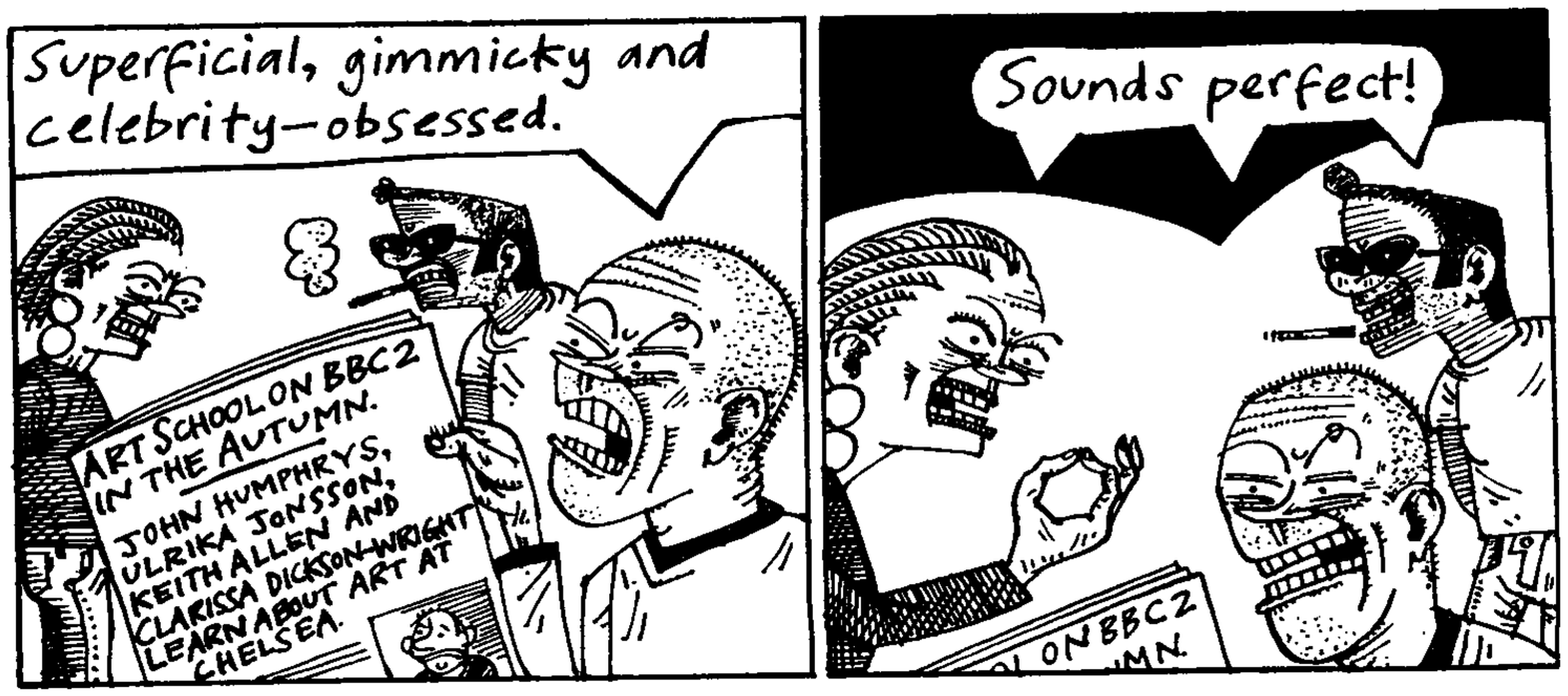
What is this "sky bowl" for? Silly question: if Gateshead has the Angel of the North, visited by 150,000 people a year, Durham needs a similar attraction, just as Liverpool wants another Eden Centre in one of its parks [Eye 1138]. Every city thinks it can benefit from the "Bilbao effect". So the hon. secretary of the City of Durham Trust misses the point when he argues that "the green skyline should be maintained... Something of that size would not be welcome to the environment of the city. The first thing you should be aware of when approaching the city should be the cathedral." What century is he living in? Religion is dead, isn't it? As Durham county council's director of culture and leisure puts it: "On one side of the city we would have the cathedral and castle, representing its unique history and heritage, and on the other we would have the powerful iconic image representing the 21st century and new horizons."

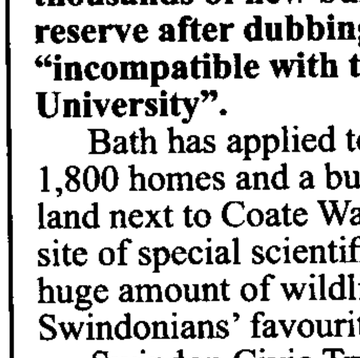
And what might those horizons be? So far, the 21st century promises terrorism, religious conflict, war, pestilence, climate change, global capitalism and the steady erosion of our liberties. All this will be beautifully symbolised by an empty giant saucer, paid for with public money. Meanwhile John Prescott is pressing ahead with the demolition of perfectly sound and habitable terraced houses all over the North of England...

'Piloti'

YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS

BY BIRCH


Superficial, gimmicky and celebrity-obsessed.
ART SCHOOL ON BBC2 IN THE AUTUMN.
JOHN HUMPHRYS, ULRIKA JONSSON, KEITH ALLEN AND CLARISSA DICKSON-WRIGHT LEARN ABOUT ART AT CHELSEA.
Sounds perfect!



I-SPY

Bedfordshire

Submitted by Stephen Baker. £10 paid for similar submissions.

(SAE required for return of photographs)

HIGH PRINCIPALS

GEORGE HOLMES, outgoing principal of Doncaster College, was outraged by *Eye* 1137's story that his departure was prompted by the Learning and Skills Council's unhappiness at his leadership.

"I am just gobsmacked," he told the *Times Educational Supplement*. "It is all just completely untrue. Our lawyers need to look at this. I shall have to consider whether to treat *Private Eye* as a ridiculous comic and just ignore it, or to sue."

The LSC is, in fact, considering direct intervention in the management of Doncaster College. The LSC's regional director Fiona Blacke said the college had been required to pay back £800,000 earlier in the year; another £500,000 was due in August. In a statement she said: "The council is concerned about Doncaster College. It has a major capital build, a challenging funding profile and a complex set of partnership arrangements. The LSC will discuss Doncaster College and decide how it can best support the governors and executive team. The LSC has a duty to support colleges and protect the interests of the learners and a range of powers to help them to do so which are used as necessary."

In August the college announced it was making 95 staff redundant, a figure that has subsequently increased to 135. Three hundred courses have been abandoned.

The *Eye* has yet to receive any communication from either Holmes or his learned friends.

BATH University bosses plan to put thousands of new buildings next to a nature reserve after dubbing Swindon town centre "incompatible with the current brand of the University".

Bath has applied to put a new campus, plus 1,800 homes and a business park, on greenfield land next to Coate Water country park, which is a site of special scientific interest and a haven to a huge amount of wildlife. It was voted Swindonians' favourite place in a poll in 2003.

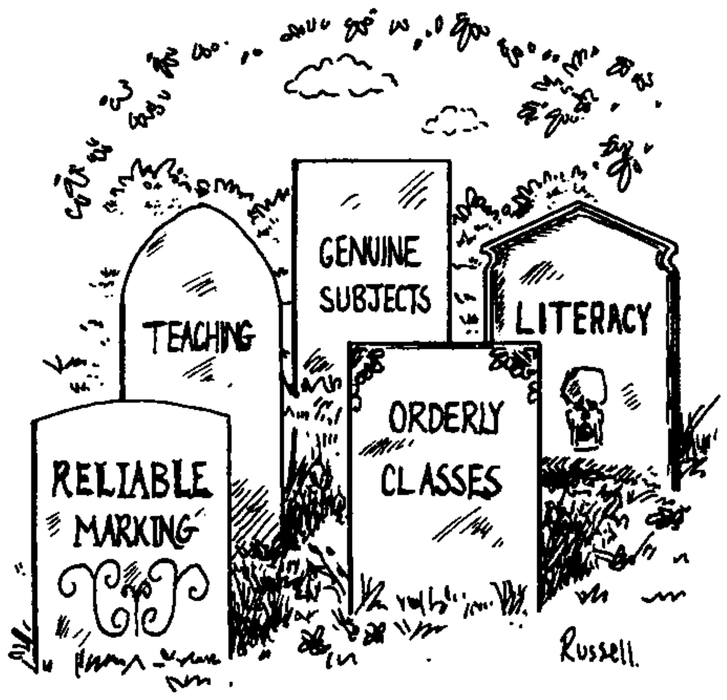
Swindon Civic Trust (SCT) drew up an alternative set of plans for the university, making use of a number of brownfield sites and under-used buildings around the town centre. Swindon may not have Bath's stunning Georgian architecture, but some new landmark university buildings could significantly improve the built environment. Sadly, the plans were quickly rejected by the university's council this summer, because they didn't suit their "brand" or marketing strategy.

University bosses told SCT that there was "no evidence that high calibre students and researchers would be attracted to a campus spread thinly across town", rather than a single site. Have none of them visited Oxford or Cambridge?

Bomb-balls

"THE TERRORIST attacks in London and Egypt have prompted many people to write a will, but it is something we should all have done anyway. Nic Cicutti guides us through the process of leaving our legacy in order." – ***Daily Telegraph* personal finance article.**

The Graves of Academe



PAPWATCH

AS THE eighth anniversary approaches of that awful day when the world woke up to the news that the "*Mail* leads the way in banning paparazzi pictures", it is time for the Eye to take our annual stock of how well the paper is keeping to Lord Rothermere's solemn promise.

August 11: the fact that Tony Blair refuses to reveal exactly where he is on holiday does not stop the paper from printing a series of blurry pics of him on board a luxury yacht. But this is justified by a vital question of national interest "HUNK OR CHUNK: Has Mr Blair been piling on the holiday pounds?" Elsewhere, long lenses have sought out actress Jennifer Aniston in a park in Chicago and Mickey Rourke outside a London nightclub.

August 15: Posh Spice has taken her children for a walk in St Tropez. Thankfully king paparazzo Jason Fraser was there to capture the moment for the *Mail*.

August 16: "Flabby? Not Gabby!" As the *Mail*'s exclusive before and after pictures (courtesy of two different paparazzi agencies) show, TV presenter Gabby Logan has lost nearly a stone in three weeks. By, er, giving birth to twins.

August 17: Nancy Dell'Olio has gone for a jog in Sardinia, another event which clearly demands a full page of pictures courtesy of Cruise Pictures.

August 18: Jude Law and Sienna Miller go for a walk on Hampstead Heath. The *Mail* has a man lurking in the bushes.

August 20: Following her successful jog, Dell'Olio has now gone for a swim, with Cruise Pictures in attendance.

August 22: "Nigella and Charles Saatchi now fall into a fortunate category of celebrity", observes Peter McKay. "They don't have to squabble, sleep with other people or misbehave in order to be written about in the newspapers." To illustrate his point? A large Cruise Pictures snap of the woman in question walking down some stairs.

August 23: Oops! The cat's out of the bag. "Blair blows his own cover," trumpets the paper, which claims that attempts to keep the PM's holiday destination secret had "collapsed in farce and confusion". The prime minister's invasion of his own privacy is illustrated with three long-lens snaps of his wife and children in their swimsuits on the beach from Splash News.

August 24: Actress Teri Hatcher has gone for a jog.

August 26: Catherine Zeta Jones, a keen golfer, has played some golf. Prince Harry has been taking diving lessons. With five grainy shots of the 20-year-old on a page, readers have an opportunity to muse on how much he looks like his mother. Remember her?

Voice over Satay
Phi Phi Island PS
Distribution
Contributor
Community Magazine, Thailand

Letters

Private Eye

A Mouse writes...

Sir,

With regard to those Number Crunching figures for A-level pass rates versus the increasing number of students taking media studies (Eye 1139), one presumes you are doing a Margaret Hodge in implying that media studies is a bit of a "Mickey Mouse" course and in part responsible for the dumbing down of education.

I worry however that you are picking on a subject that encourages students to be politically and culturally sensitive to the distortions of the British press – surely the same sort of thing that the Eye strives to do?

But hey, what would I know when it comes to reading between the lines of your printed media... I'm only a working media studies graduate.

Yours subscribed and ever-amused,
GEORGE BRICHIERI,

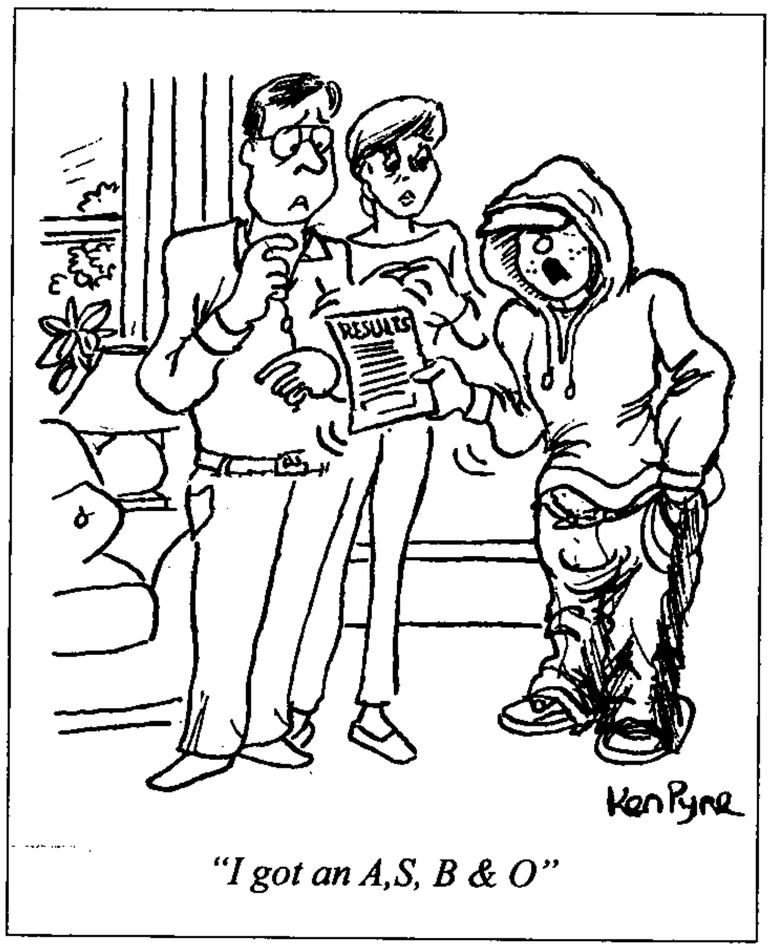
Via email.

Sir,

While you can pass an A-level by obtaining an E grade (40 percent), schools and teachers are also judged on the percentage of candidates who achieve A (80 percent) or B (70 percent) grades. Statistics from The Independent (19 August) show 60.4 percent of French students and 60.7 percent of German students obtained top grades, but only 42.7 percent of those doing media studies were awarded an A or B grade. A statistician might argue that media studies is much harder than any of those namby pamby languagey things and is not given the credit it deserves. After all, why the need to speak German when numbers can be made to say anything?

Yours,
K. HEGARTY,

Via email.



"I got an A,S, B & O"

Murphy says no

Sir,

You claim I said, "We (BBC Three) came up with Little Britain". What I actually said was, "I am pleased Little Britain was on BBC Three for a short time, on its almost inevitable journey from the comedy goldmine of weekday Radio 4 to primetime BBC One."

Yours faithfully,
STUART MURPHY,

Controller, BBC Three.

Fantasy and reality

Sir,

It is Ally Burnett, not Remote Controller, who needs a reality check (Letters, Eye 1139). The main thrust of Adam Curtis's "The Power of Nightmares" was the government's invention of al Qaeda. As the opening of the first episode explains, international terrorism (of the al Qaeda variety) "is a fantasy which has been exaggerated and distorted by politicians. It is a dark illusion that has spread unquestioned... a fantasy that politicians then found restored their power and authority". Bombers on London transport who kill 52 people and are then praised by al Qaeda's Al-Zawahiri provide a fairly strong rebuttal of the "fantasy" argument, don't they? Just because those who committed the atrocities did not operate out of an al Qaeda office (perhaps they were even a "small, separate and fragmented" group) suggests not that Curtis was right, but that the terror threat is actually greater than we anticipated and the propagandist influence of Bin Laden and his chums more insidious than we thought.

With best wishes,
ANDREW MITCHELL,

London NW9.

Sir,

As the investigation into the London bombings becomes clearer to the public, Remote Controller's dismissal of Adam Curtis's "The Power of Nightmares' (1138) looks increasingly specious. Whereas a month ago the talk was of "terror masterminds" and "international networks", now it seems that the bombers were acting on nothing more than their own warped initiative.

Far from falling at the first hurdle, Curtis' thesis – that a genuine but unexceptional threat has been exaggerated into a lurid and terrifying global nightmare to keep us frightened – only seems to have been borne out by the atrocity and the coverage in its aftermath.

Yours faithfully,
K. HALPRIN,

Via email.

Lookalike

Blair

Chegwin

Sir,

Cheeky chappy Keith Chegwin and the man with the most important job in Britain, Sir Ian Blair?

Aw ra best,
KAREN ALLAN,

Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire..

Not the Cole story

Sir,

Piloti's complaint about Arsenal's Emirates Stadium sadly misses the point. Arsenal wished to expand by building on its existing site. This was of course too much for the arrivistes who had moved into Highbury Hill (without noticing that there was a football club there) and they succeeded in opposing minor development. Only at that stage did the Disneyland like project, which we now see, come into contemplation.

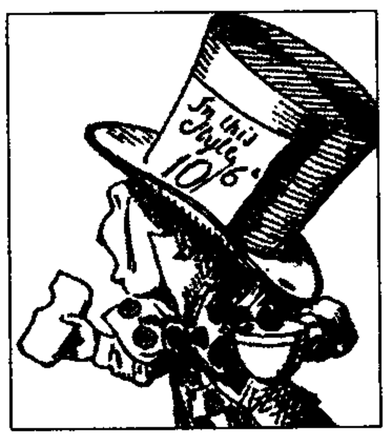
Pre 1913 the site was playing fields. The existing Art Deco buildings have dominated the (immediate) local housing since 1930. None the less, the old stadium could only be seen locally when one was almost upon it. In the days of standing in the 30s and 40s crowds regularly exceeded 50,000 and everyone arrived by public transport. Some 38,000 do so today.

The new stadium, the sponsorship deal, the planning gain, the litigation and this season's ghastly purple-brown shirts are all necessary in order to keep glitterati like our very own Mr Ashley Cole in twice the manner to which he has become accustomed.

ANDREW COHEN,

Guildford.

Lookalike



Sir Mick Jagger

Mad Hatter

Sir,

Has not the beknighted rocker, by appearing in a top hat in recent concerts, merely heightened an almost surreal resemblance to Tenniel's mentally challenged milliner?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PARKE,

London..

Cannon balls

Sir,

The cartoon on page 21 of issue 1137 shows Nelsonian-era sailors choosing between leaded and unleaded roundshot. Clearly your cartoonist is a lubberly fellow who hasn't been reading his Patrick O'Brian, as the cannonballs of the time were made out of iron, not lead.

I take the cartoon to be a scene from the Glorious First of June, fought in the Year '94.

IAN SHAW,

Cambridge.

LUVVIES

I laid out my life in all of its flawed ugliness, and I guess there was a part of me that hoped the critics would say, "Wow!" What they said, in fact, was, "Yuck!" These men are curmudgeons, and maybe I went too close to the bone for them. I was lying there naked, and they decided to kick me and step on me, just like these visions you see in Iraq.

SUZANNE SOMERS (on reviews of her Broadway show)
New York Post

Submitted by Jim Middleton.

An occasional column devoted to gems from the acting profession. £10 paid for entries.

One over the 0898

Sir,

James Dixon (last Eye) should try paying his own phone bill sometime – obviously he has not done so for a long time as the premium number 0898 disappeared sometime last century.

He is a little economic with the verité. 0870/0845 is a scam since the notional local/ national rates he quotes are way above what most people actually pay when calling normal numbers beginning with 01/02.

When you can make a four-hour call to normal 01/02 UK numbers for 2p and most European countries for 2-3p/min the 0870/0845 rip-off is nothing short of a scandal in which Ofcom and the BBC seem complicit.

Want the truth? – check-out www. saynoto0870.com

BILL FRASER,

Glasgow.

Penge friend

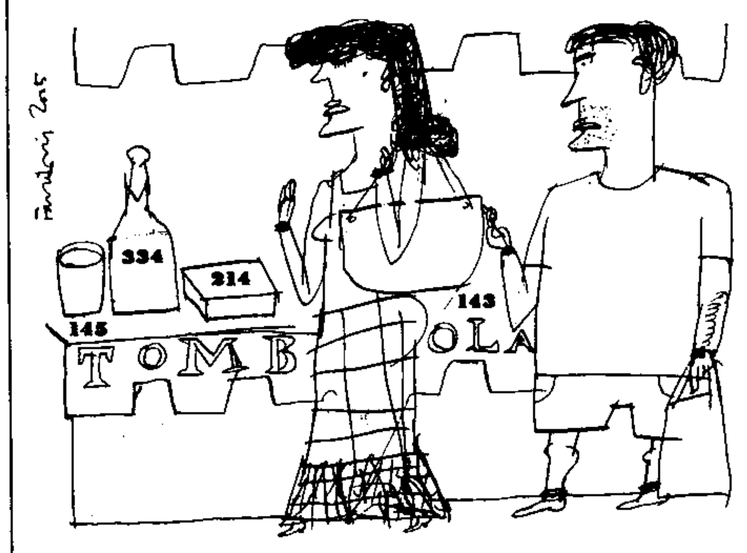
Sir,

I write with reference to the article, "Curfew what a stinker" (Eye 1137). Maybe the example of the teenager from Richmond, SW London, being served with a dispersal order was indeed an over-reaction, as he wasn't actually doing anything wrong. However, my experiences in the opposite, less pleasing corner of SE London have been somewhat different. Our local railway station and its environs had almost become a no-go area at times until a dispersal order reduced graffiti, vandalism, drug abuse and general intimidation by youths practically overnight. Not all anti-social behaviour measures are bad news. The people at the sharp end of it have human rights too.

Regards,
MATT SAWYER,

Penge, SE London.

Scenes You Seldom See



"Do let's buy a ticket. We might win the lavendar talcum powder and soap set"

Public vs private neglect

Sir,

Your piece on millionaire home profiteer Chai Patel, issue 1139, describing his alleged caring methods of ministering to the frail and elderly: patients being left in soiled beds; bells not being answered; poor staffing and morale; unexplained falls and bruising, brought to my mind other organisations accused of similar conduct in several fly on the wall documentaries. What were they? It's on the tip of my tongue – oh yes, National Health hospitals.

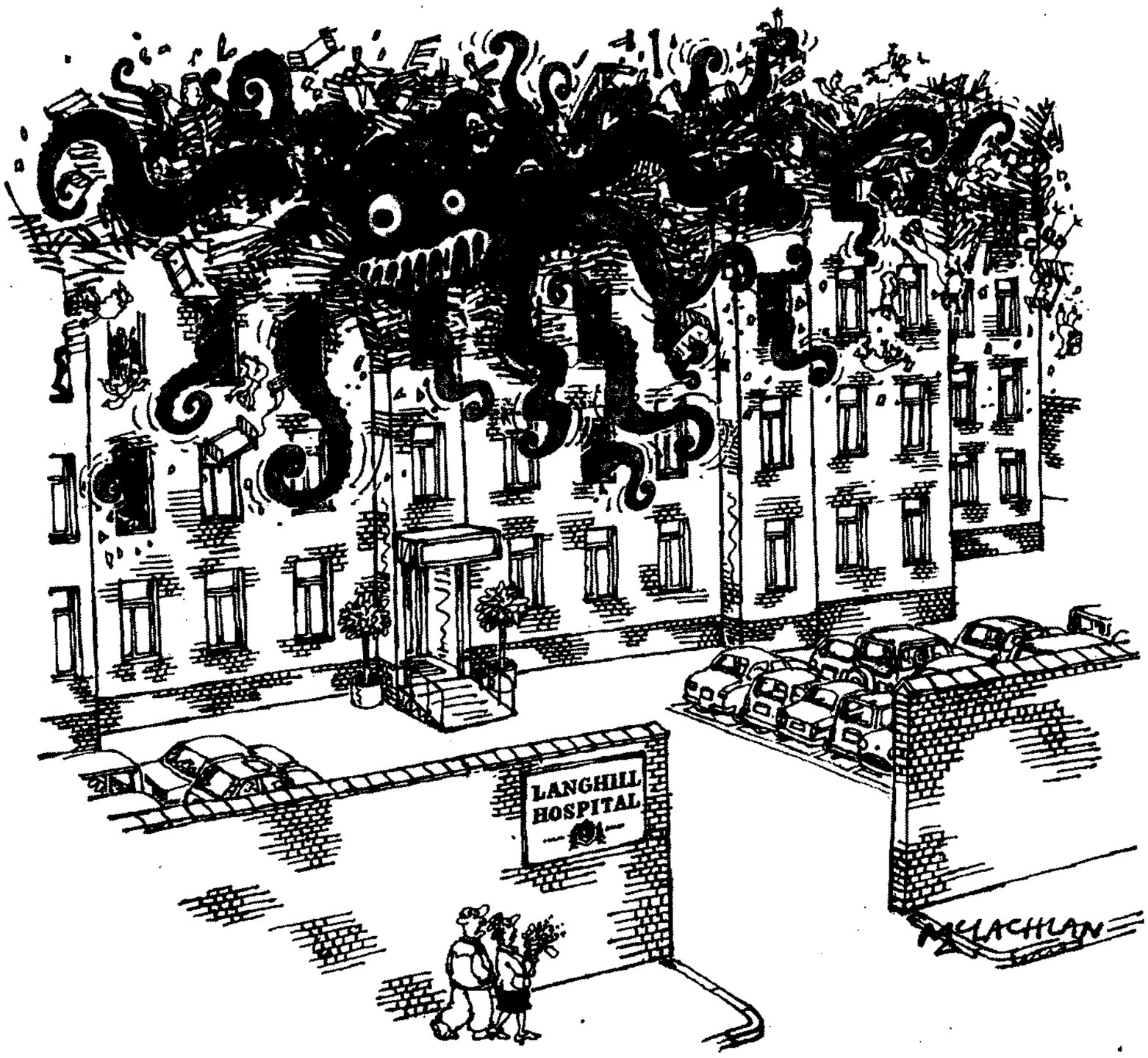
Didn't someone write a song, "Hope I die before I get old..."? May God, or whoever is out there, have mercy on us all.

ANN HALL,

Northumberland Heath, Kent.

Lindfield £410,000
Almost attractive High Street house with spacious accommodation on three floors. 4 beds, 2 Recs.

Daily Telegraph



"Isn't this the hospital where only last week they discovered a new, even more virulent, superbug?"

Tanked up

Sir,

Oh dear! It seems that Geoffrey Matthews (Eye 1139) is writing from a position of ignorance, and I cannot let a fellow ex-BAOR tankie's (Don Jones) linguistic abilities remain sullied.

As any fule kno, "Panzer" is the German for "armour". It is a common misconception amongst ignoramuses that "Panzer" is the German for "panther". Amusingly, "panther" in German is, er, "Panther", or sometimes "Leopard", which is probably where the whole blessed confusion arose. Perhaps Mr Matthews himself spent too much time in West Germany ordering bratties and "zu viele Biere" ("too much beer"), to busy himself with learning the language properly. In addition, as a true pedant, I must point out that the current German main battle tank is a Leopard 2, not a Leopard.

For clarity, the full German name for a tank is (and always was) "Panzerkampfwagen", ie "armoured fighting vehicle", which in my opinion is a reasonable description of the thing.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS
(EX-4RTR),

Via email.

Candid on cameras

Sir,

Hurrah for the refreshing common sense of Leon Truscott's defence (Letters, 1138) of the AA's publishing the locations of speed cameras. As Mr Truscott says, hidden cameras could mean the authorities were hoping to "catch" motorists breaking the speed limit, which, according to Mr Truscott, must logically mean they "hope" there are speeding motorists to catch.

Mr Truscott could have given other examples of this excellent principle. Surely the positions of security cameras in shops and tube stations should be clearly displayed – so that shoplifters will know at which counters they can steal unobserved, and suicide bombers can get among their victims on unsupervised platforms. After all, if the authorities try to "catch" suicide bombers on camera, Mr Truscott has shown us that it must follow that they "hope" there will be bomb attacks!

Mr Truscott's message is loud and clear: the traffic laws are there to be broken, surreptitiously but ruthlessly – just like the lives of the 3500 people killed on Britain's roads each year, most of them by speeding motorists.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL THOMSON,

London SW15.

COVER GIRL: Zoe Lamond of North Bersted is the cover girl of Weight Watchers magazine for her success story as a slimmer, losing four stones, as well as her looks.

W. Sussex Gazette

"I only ever use the supermarkets for the latest 'Harry Potter'"

Proper tea section

Sir,

Apologies for pedantry but I think Pierre-Joseph Proudhon and not Karl Marx should have been the subject of your cartoon (Eye 1138). It was Proudhon that infamously declared that "property is theft". His critic Marx in contrast was pretty keen on property, just not the private variety. Perhaps your own Mr Wheen, an engaging writer on the subject, could verify this for you. I accept though that there is little market for jokes about little-known French anarchists.

Yours,
STRUAN MACDONALD,

Via email.

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"If he [Birmingham Central Mosque chairman Dr Mohammed Naseem] wants to make cheap political points then he really ought to relinquish his position as chairman and let somebody who is neutral and has the interests of the community do it."
Labour MP KHALID MAHMOOD
(David Reece)

"When Mbayo gets back home at the end of the afternoon, she cooks and washes her children."
news.bbc.co.uk
(Andy Morris)

"He [Graeme Smith] is capable of reading other people's heads."
NASSER HUSSAIN, Sky Sports
(Steve Atkins)

"... that shot was as straight as a whistle."
TONY GREIG, Channel 4
(Allan Lewis)

"For midfielders, it's very difficult to score without the ball."
RODNEY MARSH, Talk Sport
(Michael Charalambous)

SOLUTIONS

"Hunger solutions" – *food aid to Africa*

"Adwalker: wearable media solutions" – *sandwich boards*

"Delivering linen management solutions every day" – *laundry*

"All-in-one sleepover solution" – *inflatable mattress*

"TopPave: creating paving solutions" – *paving*

"Feet first comfort solutions" – *shoe shop*

"Recovery solutions" – tow truck

All submitted by readers

Photo Opportunity

Sir,

Following the photo in the Daily Mail of our own dear Prime Minister relaxing in the company of a young girl in Barbados, do you perchance possess any archive photographs of similarly powerful men in the media spotlight enjoying the company of beautiful women?

SARAH VINE,

Via email.

Boring

Sir,

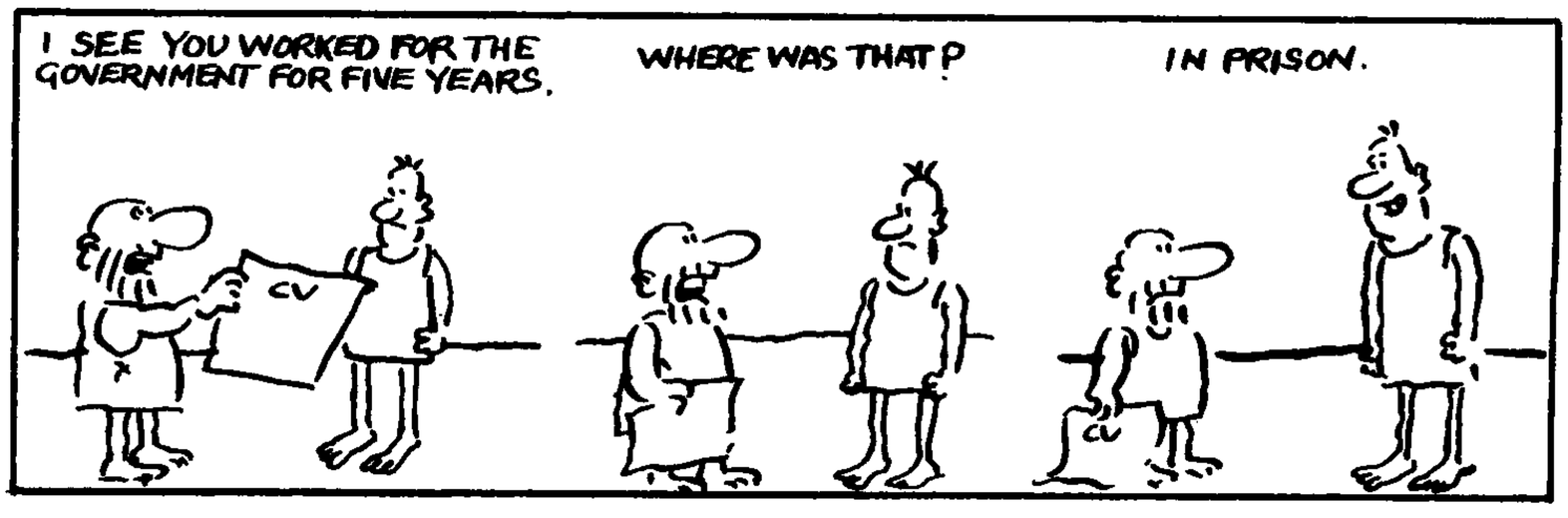
Re: "Crush Test Dummies" (Eye 1139), the photo shown is not a trial pit at all. What you have there is the thick end of a Cable Percussion Rig, which is used to bore... boreholes. Trial pits are bigger, shallower and usually dug by an excavator of some description. They don't name drilling rigs after big cats though, which I've always thought is a bit of a shame.

STEVE MATTHEWS,
SHEFFIELD.

PS. If you publish this please feel free to append the headline "Boring" in best sniggering public schoolboy tradition.

HOM SAP

AUSTIN



Letter from **Monrovia**

from Our Own Correspondent

DO YOU remember us? You might have seen Liberia on the news 10 years ago, or read about our awful war and how the young people, out of their minds on drugs, wore wigs and killed anything that moved.

But things have changed in Africa's oldest republic. We are, so they say, about to become a democracy. On 15 August we were dancing in the garbage-strewn streets of Monrovia, our capital. Official campaigning had begun for presidential and parliamentary elections and the supporters of the multitude of presidential candidates (22 at the last count) were out to prove a point.

It is not wise to dance on our streets. The potholes are deep and this is the rainy season. A man can fall into a water-filled pothole and not be seen again. One can be swept away in an open sewer or fall down a manhole with no cover. For most of the past 15 years there has been fighting. The scars are everywhere: burned out buildings, no running water, no electricity. Schools lack books, blackboards, desks and, frequently, teachers. Hospitals are without doctors and drugs. The government has scarcely any revenue and civil servants are owed thousands of dollars in pay. Nothing thrives, apart from the 15,000 United Nations employees who drive around in white jeeps hooting impatiently for their security guards to open the metal gates to their compounds.

Aside from ubiquitous Lebanese contractors, the only Liberian financial winners out of the *status quo* are members of the interim government (a rag-tag of nominees of the various armed groups who plunged the country into the mess it's in today). Under the terms of the peace agreement that ended the civil war they are not allowed to stand in October's elections. Knowing that they only have a few weeks more in office, they are stealing every dollar and every government vehicle they can lay their hands on.

So why were Monrovians dancing? Well, the elections are a diversion from the misery of everyday life – something to discuss on street corners. For once, we are important. The fate of politicians is in our hands. We can speak our minds, and our brains will not be blown out by wired teenagers.

There are two front runners: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who lost the last election to Charles Taylor, and George Oppong Weah, former World Footballer of the Year. Sirleaf is an able, fluent former finance minister, but she served in many previous governments and has plenty of enemies. Weah is a charming man who has contributed much to Liberia's self-esteem by single-handedly financing the national football team. But he is only slightly brighter than David Beckham and has no experience of government. When he arrives home from trips abroad he is greeted by thousands of supporters. But most are boys below the age of 15, and they don't have the vote. He is surrounded by the scoundrels who once backed Taylor. These people see in Weah an opportunity to continue bleeding Liberia dry and, perhaps, even bring their fallen hero back from exile in Nigeria.

So a Weah win might not be the best news. We would remain Africa's biggest basket case, shunned by the international community and investors. Were he to lose, God save us from his young supporters, who would most likely take to the streets intent on revenge and, maybe, a little looting of Lebanese shops with their tempting electric goods. The UN peacekeepers would then have a real job on their hands. They might for once have to earn their fat salaries.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

● "I'm not sick or a danger to others," Ezekiel Rubottom told reporters on the porch of his home in Lawrence, Kansas, "but it's my foot, and I figure I can do with it whatever I please. I was born with a clubbed left foot, and earlier this summer it developed such a serious bone infection that I decided to have it amputated. The hospital asked if I wanted it back, so I said yes, and I kept it in this bucket of formaldehyde, here on the porch, and showed it to passers-by. It never occurred to me that there might be a problem, until the police turned up to arrest me, and said they were seizing the foot as evidence of a possible crime."

Police spokesman Sgt. Dan Ward explained that "When neighbours told us about the foot, we had to investigate whether a crime had been committed. We confiscated the bucket on Saturday night, and arrested Mr Rubottom, because even though we could see he was an amputee, that didn't prove the foot was his. We kept him in the cells until Monday, then took him to the Lawrence Memorial Hospital, where he signed a release form allowing us to see his medical records. A pathologist checked the condition of the foot, to make sure it wouldn't be a hazard, after which it was returned to him. Case closed."

Speaking on behalf of the hospital, Karen Shumate pointed out that "This isn't unusual. All our patients are allowed to keep body parts after removal, if they want them. Women sometimes want their uterus, and lots of people take their tonsils or appendix. It's unusual for someone to want a foot, but it's within their rights, because it's theirs."

After showing his foot to journalists, Rubottom added "not everyone can say that he keeps his own foot in a bucket, but I'm getting tired of showing it for free. I've already cut off two toes to give to friends, and after today, if anybody wants to see it, I'm going to charge $2 a time." *(Lawrence Journal-World, 26/7/05. Spotter: Frank Jordans)*

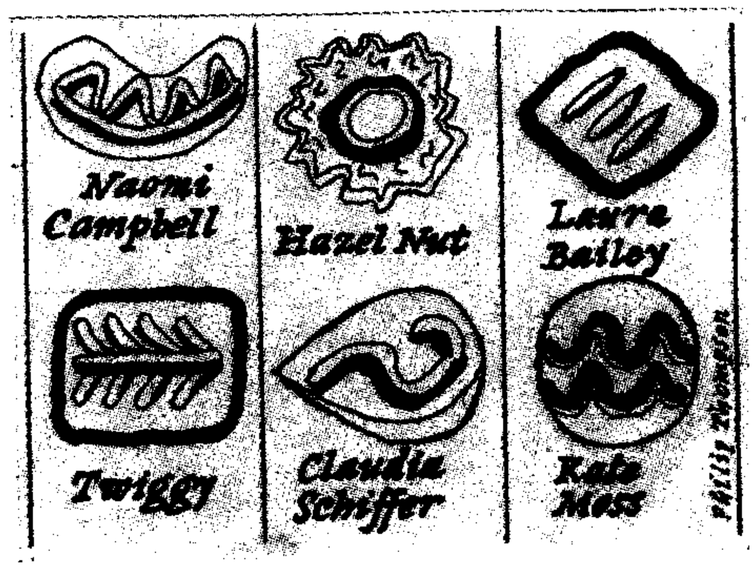
– ● –

● *"After years of having to clean up piles of human waste at the end of every drinking session, sellers of kachasu (a highly potent illicit brew) have come up with a novel solution. Last week, I was walking past a shebeen in the Chikanga suburb of Mutare when I noticed a queue of elderly men at the gate. At the head of the queue was a young boy with a box of stout elastic bands beside him, and he was tying the trousers of each man at the ankles. When I asked him what he was doing, he explained that the brew is so strong that the muscles of the drinkers are loosened up, including the sphincter, and that many drinkers do their entire toilet in their trousers unwittingly. Many drinkers wear no underwear, he added, and leave the shebeen littered with excrement when they depart. 'Tying their trousers helps,' he told me, 'because those who soil themselves carry their mess home with them, and we don't have a lot of unpleasant clearing up afterwards.' Surprisingly, the drinkers submitted to this indignity with calm. Shorts, I was told, are not allowed."* (Column by Moses Magazda in The Manica Post, 3/8/02. Spotter: G. J. Yiend)

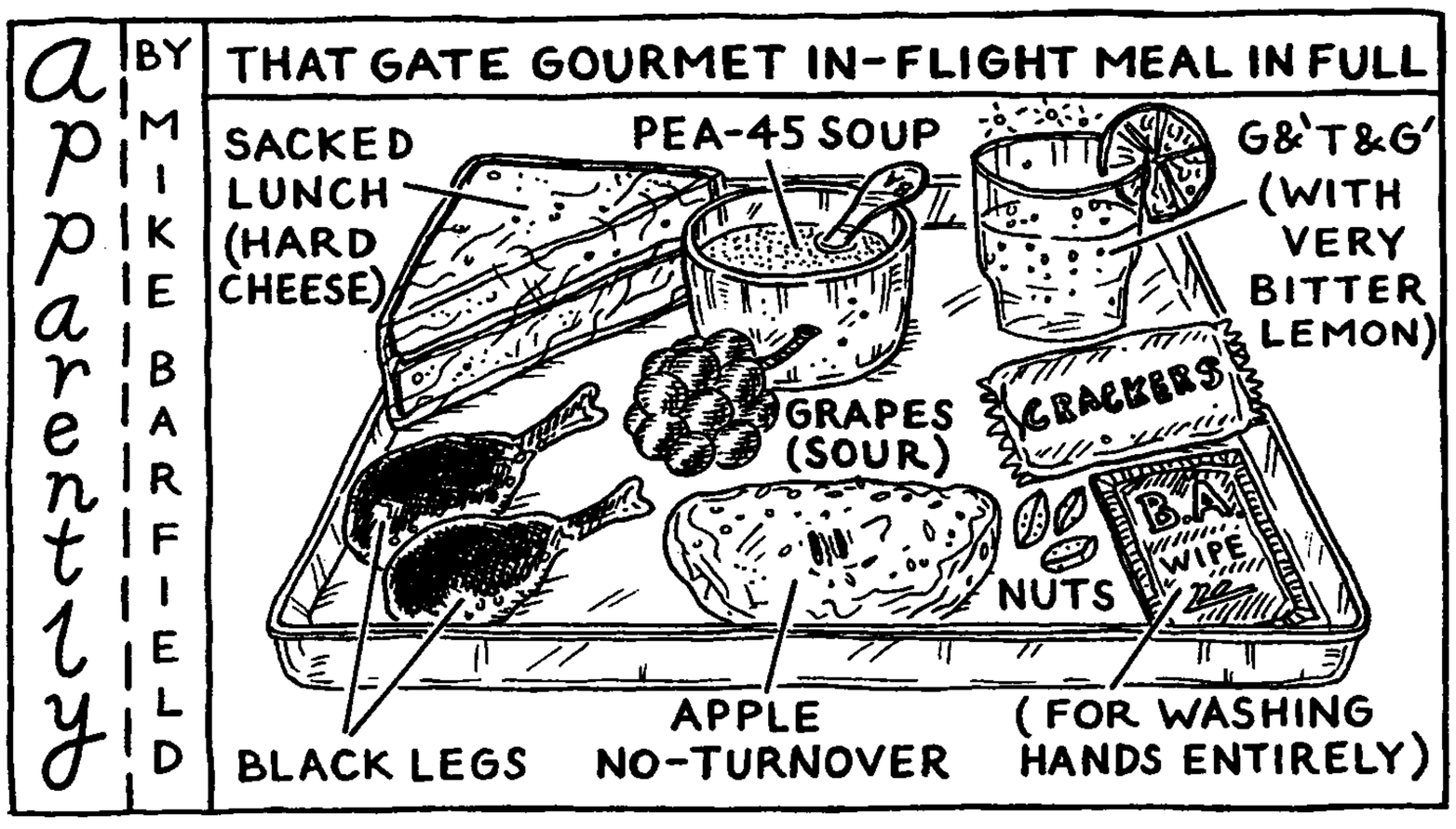
– ● –

● "Our goal is to celebrate chocolate," Sylvie Douce told journalists gathered in the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Beijing, "and to show that it is more than just a food. Here in the world's largest country, we want to introduce people to the many ways that one can experience chocolate, using not just the mouth, but all the senses. And our exhibition of chocolate haut couture will show you just how versatile it can be."

Ms Douce (of the Paris Salon du Chocolat) was introducing a fashion show in which the



models were dressed in clothes made entirely from chocolate. After the show, in which women strode the catwalk wearing confections made by twenty of the world's finest chocolatiers (from France, Belgium, and Russia), model Li Chunzhi said. "This is the first time I have ever dressed in chocolate. It feels so fresh, and is very different from any other show I've ever modelled in. But you have to be very careful about dressing, and not stay under the lights for too long, otherwise your clothes start to melt. Perhaps this is what the Jin dynasty poet Lu Shiheng had in mind, when he said that 'beauty is a feast in itself'." *(South China Morning Post, 11/6/05. Spotter: George Adams)*



ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

Hullo!

And congratulations to all the children who guessed the right answer to the quiz question "where is the vicar on holiday?"

No, Rashid, it wasn't Uzbekistan. But a good try! And no, Iqbal, it wasn't Iraq, although it was high on my list of places where I would have liked to go.

Things are really looking up there, apparently, with lovely beaches in the famous Green Zone and some of the restaurants have even got food!

So, a special prize to you for a good guess!

But the right answer, of course, is that I was very lucky to be invited yet again to that lovely Caribbean island where our old friend Sir Cliff Richard has a delightful little 18 bedroom villa, with its own pool, private beach, tennis court (very important!), dolphinarium and ocean-going yacht.

As you all know, Sir Clifford has been a good friend of the church even since he first sang in our choir in the 1950s, and it would have been rude of me not to accept the generous invitation he sent me after I wrote to him asking whether I could come to stay with my entire family for a month!

Hey, and doesn't it say in the Good Book "it is more blessed to receive than to give (Paul's Letter To The Freeloadians, 7.7.)?"

So that's that little mystery cleared up!

But the main thing about holidays is not where you go or who you stay with,

The vicar entertains his friends with a rendition on the ukulele of the old favourite "We're All Going on a Free Summer Holiday"!

but how you feel when you come back!

And I have to say that I feel hugely refreshed by our time on that "island not in the Sun newspaper" (thank you for that very good joke, Mr O'Farrell!) and I can tell you that I am getting back to the vicarage with my batteries recharged.

And no, I haven't got a pacemaker, thank you Vijay, I am extremely healthy, and I only wish I could say the same for some of my former colleagues on the P.C.C. who seem to have chosen my holiday period as a time to pass on!
I was personally deeply saddened, as I am sure you all were, by the sad news about Mrs Mowlam.

As you will remember, Mo was a very much loved figure in the parish and in my early days here she seemed an ideal candidate to sort out the problems we'd been having with our mission in Northern Ireland (St. Gerry's, formerly St. Trimble's).

Of course Mr Mandelson is right to point out that she made rather a hash of things (thanks to her growing fondness for Irish whiskey!) and left him to go in and clear up the mess!

I don't want to take anything away from Peter, who did a perfectly good job before he had to resign (again!), but in the end, if you want job doing properly you have to do it yourself – and so I did!

Anyway, that's all solved now and we can remember Mo as she was before her sad decline – a warm, bubbly, fun-loving, young Sunday school teacher who only later turned into an embittered old harridan sitting on a park bench drinking meths and shouting four-letter abuse about the vicar!

What a sad end, and some might say she had it coming to her! Let us hope that the same fate doesn't await poor Mrs Short, after the tragically earlier departure of Mrs Mowlam and our disgraced former organist Mr Cook.

But enough of such sadness! I wanted to end on a bright note, and that's to congratulate all our school leavers on their wonderful exam results.

Mrs Kelly, the chair of governors at our Kwikfit Beacon Academy for Excellence (formerly the Shirley Williams Comprehensive) tells me that some of you got A levels who didn't even take them!

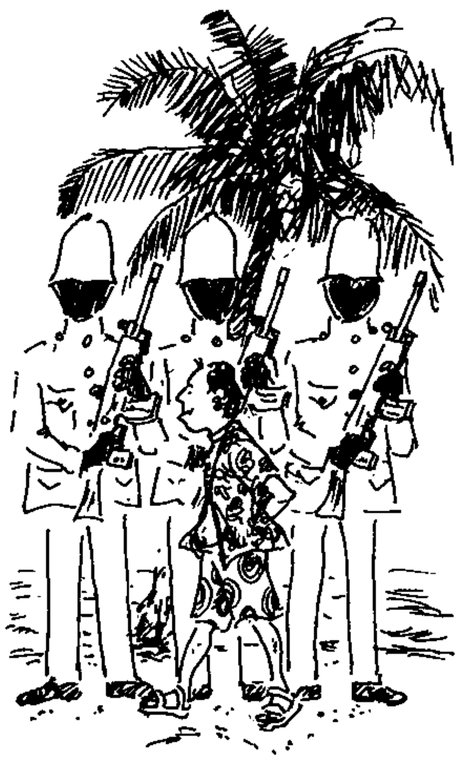
So, well done everyone, and I think we can award ourselves a 'A Star' for the tremendous strides education had made in the parish since 1997!

And let's face it, reading and writing aren't everything in the age of the internet and mobile phone!

So let's celebrate with a 24-hour drinking session at the Britannia Arms, now that it's sensibly allowed to open all day and all night!

Cheers!

Tony



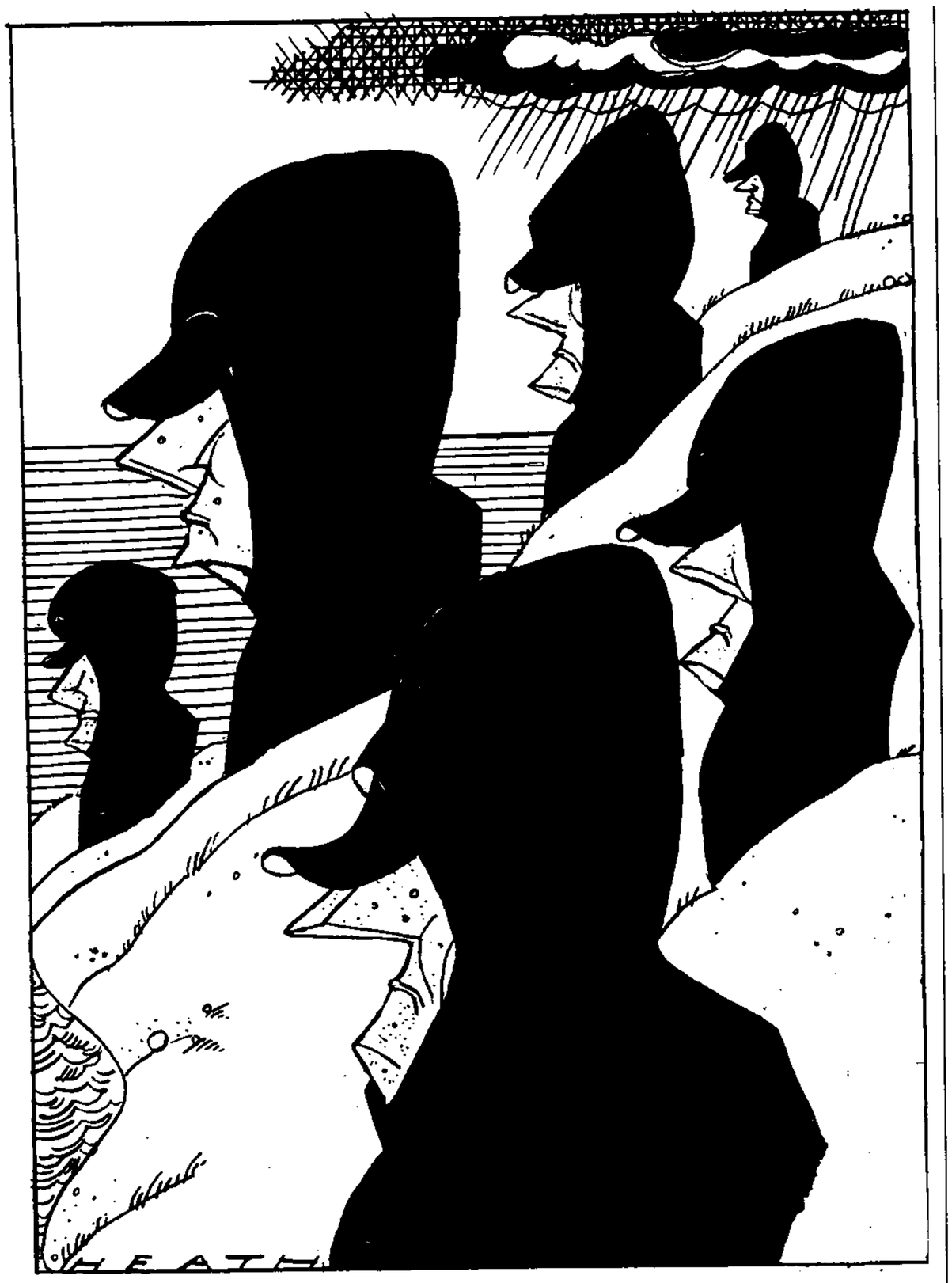
Local artist Mr de la Nougerede captures the scene during the Vicar's busy working holiday where he attends an important official ceremony to commemorate the fact that he can charge his travel expenses to the parish (is this right, Ed?)

Well Done!!!

A huge 'thank you' to my namesake, PC Blair, who, as everyone recognises, has done a terrific job in keeping us all safe in the summer months (except, of course, for poor Mr Menenez, the innocent Brazilian terrorist who was sadly shot down by PC Blair's colleagues acting in good faith). So, well done, Ian. Keep up the good work and we can all sleep safely in our beds at night (so long as we don't then go out and catch the tube in the morning!). T.B.

NOTICE TO LOCAL MEDIA

Editors of the St Albion's Echo and the producers at St Albion's Cottage Hospital Radio are hereby instructed that, for reasons of security, they must no longer reveal the address where the vicar lives – ie, the Vicarage. Your cooperation in this regard would be appreciated, otherwise you will face criminal prosecution under the Freedom of Agreeable Caribbean Villas Act 2005.
Charles Clarke, Head of St Albion's Neighbourhood Watch



CLARKE ADMITS 'I WAS WRONG'

by Our Political Staff **Peter O'Bore**

THE veteran Conservative leadership contender Kenneth Clarke last night admitted that he had been wrong in supporting the Tory Party.

Speaking from his home in the Nottinghamshire village of Hushpuppington, Clarke frankly admitted, "When it was launched, I thought the Tory Party was a great idea and would work".

EU Turn

"But I now realise that it was always doomed to failure. This is why I am now putting my name forward to lead the party to its fourth successive election defeat."

Kenneth Clarke is 165.

'A' LEVEL RESULTS
Are Standards Falling?

ONCE again this summer's 'A' Level results have been published in the national press and record numbers of fruity girls have been seen celebrating on the front pages.

Yet the worrying question remains. Is it becoming easier to get into the Daily Telegraph and the Times?

Phwoar 'A's At 'A' Level!

Statistics claim that an astonishing 97% of girls taking 'A' Levels this year have now appeared in national newspapers, prompting fears that standards are slipping. Said one educational expert, "Last year we were told that the girls were the fruitiest ever. Now this year we are meant to believe they are even fruitier. I'm sorry, I just don't believe it."

Wa-Hey Levels!

Newspaper editors were, however, quick to defend their performance. "How dare you question the fruitiness of our 'A' Level girls? They are every bit as fruity as last year, if not more so. They fully deserve their results, ie appearing on the front pages of all national newspapers."

Not On Other Pages

■ Boys getting their results

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Woman Falls Off Horse

A WOMAN today fell off a horse. Her condition was described as 'not serious'.

On Other Pages

- Pictures of woman (not wearing many clothes) **1**
- Pictures of horse (naked) **2**
- Is Woman Cut Out For Country Life? asks Dr Thomas Stuttaford **16**

PLUS

- Editorial: Why oh why Madonna would make better leader of Tory Party than fat, lazy, beer-swilling Clarke. Don't you hate him?

LATE EDUCATION NEWS

THE latest report into Britain's primary schools has painted a bleak picture of falling standards, with many students failing to achieve the necessary grades.

"Literary and numeracy standards have slipped so badly that these children are only likely to get as few as three or four 'A's when they eventually sit their 'A' Levels," said a horrified head *(cont. p. 94)*

Woman made most senior female police officer

Press & Journal

Advertisment

Help the Aged

In the twilight of their years Michael, Keith, Ronald and Charles have difficulty performing the simplest of tasks – staying at home, doing the garden, having a cup of tea.

Instead they are reduced to cavorting around the stage on a non-stop tour of the world. It is a sad sight but you have to remember that once these old gentlemen were lively free-spirited youngsters who enjoyed music and dancing.

But now in the winter of their lives their only pleasure is making money.

You can help Michael and his friends to live a normal dignified life by not going to their concerts and not buying any more of their albums.

It's a small thing to ask but it would make a huge difference to the quality of their lives.

Please don't make any more donations.

Thankyou

Help the Aged

POETRY CORNER

In memoriam Robert Moog, inventor of the famous Moog Synthesiser

So. Farewell
Then Robert Moog.
Pronounced to rhyme with
'Vogue',
Not 'fugue'.

Your invention
Revolutionised the
World of popular
Music.
Keith informs me
That it was used by
The Doors, Yes, and even
The Beatles.

Woeeeezzeeerrrreeeyyyeerdddooing!
It is hard to convey
The effect of your
Great invention in
A poem of
This kind.

E.J. Throob (pronounced to rhyme with 'crib', not 'tube')

Now out on DVD

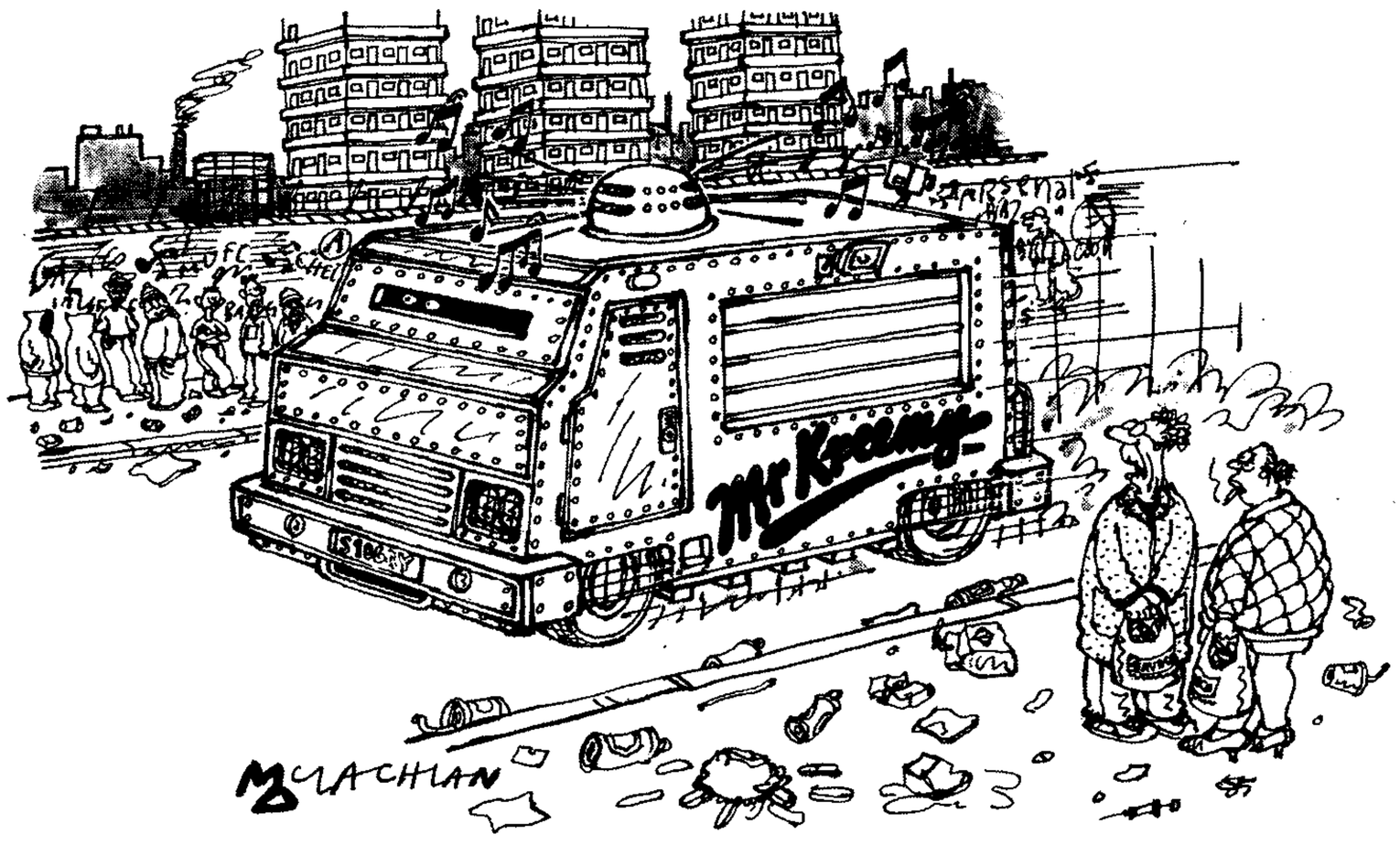
Fu Mandy-Chu And The Evil Trouser Mountain

(Rating: EU)

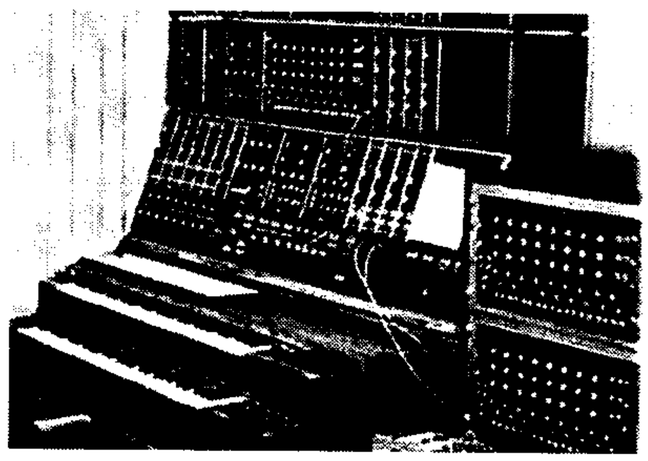
MILLIONS of Chinese trousers are advancing on Europe. Only one man stands between them and the end of the French textile industry.

The moustachioed Spin Doctor Fu Mandy-Chu sets out singlehandedly to stop the evil tide of wily oriental trousers taking over the world, with his legendary catch-phrase "Me not quitter, me honourable fighter."

Alas, he fails.



"Ice cream vans are not what they were in my day"



What was the Rees-Moog Synthesiser?

To anyone under 60, the name Rees-Moog might mean very little. But in its day the Rees-Moog was everywhere. Says one Rees-Moog enthusiast: "It was a truly revolutionary innovation, spewing out thousands of words every day over a vast area. It had a very distinctive sound: a kind of low, persistent drone that had the effect of sending people to sleep."

Said another fan: "The Rees-Moog could synthesise a whole week's news and turn it into a single unmistakable theme which could last for decades. One thinks, for instance, of The Return Of The Gold Standard, The Coming Second Ice Age, and Why The Tories Are Going To Win The Next Election Under Iain Duncan Smith."

To find out more about the Rees-Moog Synthesiser, log on to the Times's exciting new technology website, www.reesmoog.org.uk

RADIO FOUR

What You Missed All Week

THE TODAY PROGRAMME

The Nation's Favourite Colour

Humphrys: And now it's time for the poll that has set the whole nation talking – what is Britain's favourite colour? From your thousands of nominations, our experts have produced a shortlist of just five colours. Today we're looking at the first of the five – the colour blue.

And here to make the case for 'blue' is Steve Sarnie, the Gombrich Professor of Visual and Media Studies at the University of Stoke Newington.

Sarnie: It is understandable why so many of you have gone for 'blue' as the colour which gives you the biggest buzz. I mean, just check it out. The sky is blue. The sea is blue. So, obviously, the big money is on blue. Stands to reason, doesn't it??

Humphrys: Thank you, Professor. Well, I certainly like blue. I mean, I may not know much about colour, but I know what I like. Ha ha ha ha. What about you, Sara? From that face you're pulling, I suspect you're not a blue person?

Sara Montague *(for it is Carolyn Quinn)*: Well, we're doing 'yellow' tomorrow and, to be quite honest, if it was a choice between 'blue' and 'yellow', it's got to be 'yellow' for me. But it's not what I think, it's what the listeners think that matters.

Humphrys: Since when?

Montague: So, it's not too late for you to take part in our great 'Favourite Colour' poll. You can text or email your choice of colour to philairtime.bbc.co.uk and the result will be announced on this programme on September 25th.

Humphrys: And tomorrow the case for 'yellow' will be put by the nation's favourite Rabbi, Rabbi Blue.

(Preview tape of Rabbi Blue)

Blue: Hullo, Sara. Hullo, John. I was visiting a dear old lady in hospital the other day, and she said, "Lionel, the trouble with this place is that they don't serve custard". And, you know, that set me off thinking about the colour yellow. Especially since my friend had jaundice.

Montague: So there's something for us all to look forward to tomorrow. Is it time for some news yet?

Humphrys: No, it's time to tell you what's coming up later today, here on Radio 4.

(Silly music)

Serious Voice: We take it for granted. But we couldn't do without it, and it changed the way we live for ever. Michael Portillo traces the history of the coathanger. Don't miss him. Radio 4, 11.30am.

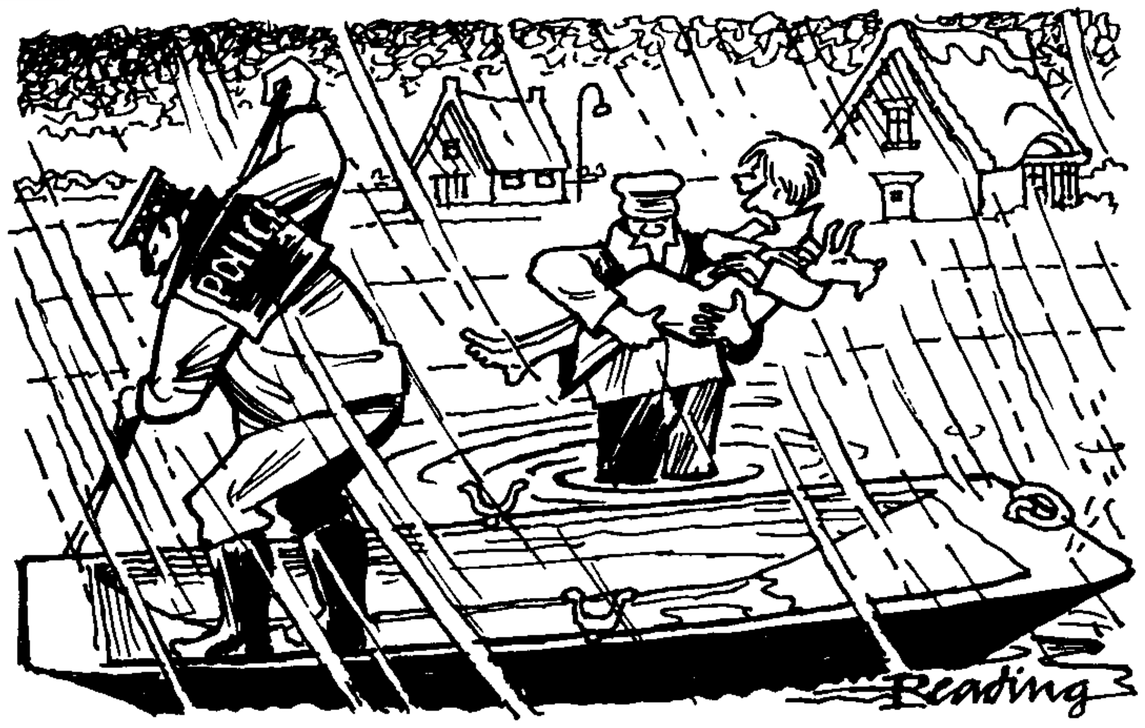
(More silly music)

Another Serious Voice: 'Afternoon Theatre' at 2.30pm presents The Coathanger, a new play for radio by W.W. Wentworth. The harsh life of an Edinburgh heroin addict is changed forever when he discovers a coathanger in his wardrobe.

(More silly music)

Silly Voice: And a welcome return at 6.30 this evening for the ever-popular Coathanger Quiz, with team captains Stephen Fry and Sandy Toksvig. Their guests tonight, joining in the coathanger fun, will be Michael Portillo, Ann Widdecombe and the Glaswegian playwright, W.W. Wentworth. Don't miss it!

(Listeners switch over to Radio 3 and then quickly to Classic FM)



"But the gardens really needed this, didn't they?"

POLLY FILLER

THANK GOD! The long summer holiday is almost at an end. Like most working mums, I've been at my wits' end counting the days until it's all over and I no longer have to take Charlie swimming, cycling, paintballing, Science Museuming (again – yawn!!), visiting his little friends or trailing round Blockbuster looking for the latest Playstation kids game (*Pimp City: The Brothel Wars* since you ask!).

And, as you may have guessed, I've had zero help from the useless you-know-who (Simon!), who has spent the whole holiday in front of the television watching *Pro-Celebrity Sewer Diving* with Jeremy Clarkson and A.A. Gill.

It's been hell and I don't know how I've coped – but now it's only 17 hours and 47 minutes until the summer holiday is over – the **nanny's** summer holiday, that is! And I tell you one thing – I'm never giving her three days off again. The sooner Rebeccah gets back from Gaza ("family crisis" supposedly!) and gets on with reading Charlie the new Harry Potter book and washing Simon's underpants – or is it the other way round? Men! They're all the same – the better for all concerned. I tell you, these last few days have been so exhausting that I need a holiday – so I'm off to Dubai until term starts, for some serious sun, sea and shopping. Salaam!

© *Polly Filler*

"Let me through! I'm a conspiracy theorist"

SVEN BLAMED AFTER ENGLAND DEBACLE

by Our Football Staff E.I. Ad'er

THE ENGLAND manager, Sven-Goran Eriksson, was last night under attack for his dismal performance following England's crushing 4-1 defeat at the hands of Denmark.

Said a spokesman for the FA: "We are all disappointed by the result with Miss Faria Alam and the fact that Sven failed to score is not what we expect from our manager.

"But it is clear," he continued, "that Sven's mind has not been on the job and he has been distracted from Miss Alam by his relationship with a number of English footballers."

A source close to Ms Alam told us: "Sven has been on the phone to someone called David and has even arranged to meet up with him at the stadium. It's clear what he wants – it's a secret training session."

Nancy Boy

Ms Alam went on: "Sven must think I'm stupid, but I know that he is up to no good – i.e. managing the England team."

Mr Eriksson, however, denied the latest allegations.

"I am totally committed to getting my leg over," he said, "and I would never let England's World Cup preparations get in the way of that goal."

POETRY CORNER

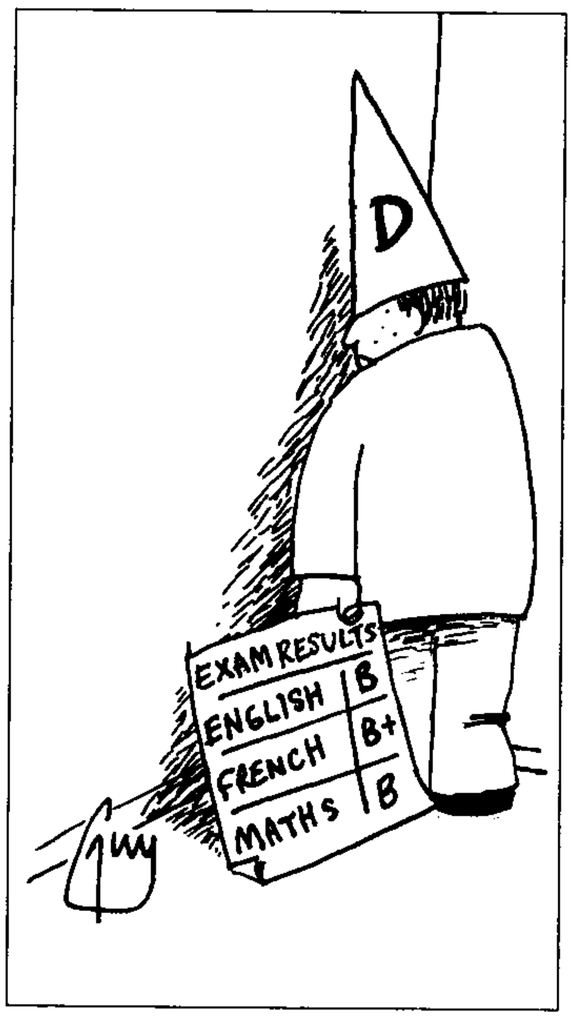
In memoriam Chief Superintendent 'Slipper of the Yard' Slipper, former head of the Flying Squad

So. Farewell then
Chief Superintendent
Slipper.

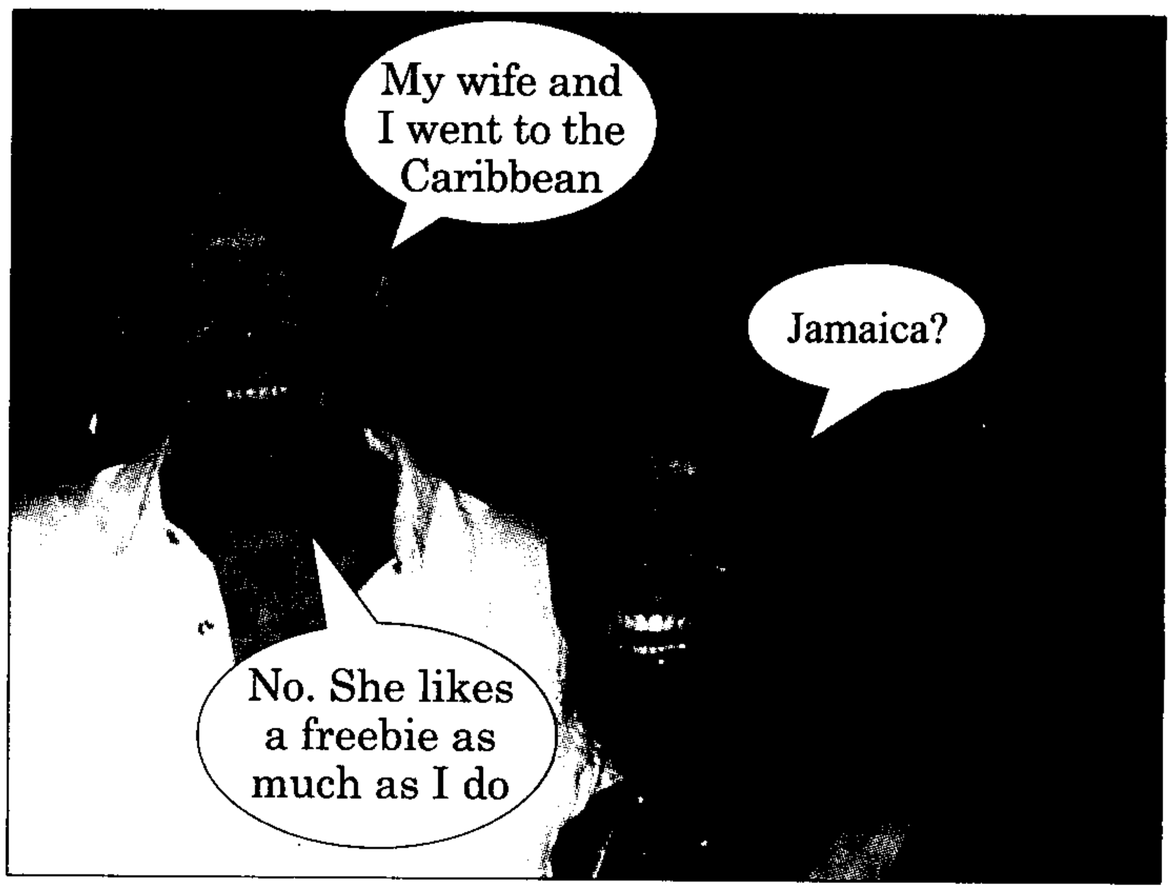
You were best known
For failing to catch
The Great Train Robber
Ronnie Biggs.

Now the Grim
Reaper has tracked
You down.
And you have been
Unable to give him
The slip.

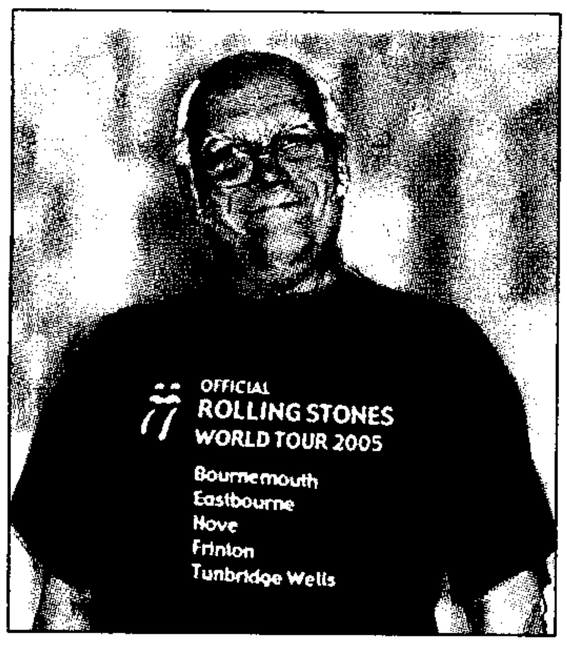
E.J. Thribber (17½)



OLD JOKES REVISITED No. 94



GNOME T-SHIRT OFFER



Holiday Bestsellers

1. **The Daily Telegraph Book of Sudoku Puzzles**
   Forward by HRH Prince Charles Moore
2. **Harry Potter and the Half-Finished Sudoku**
   by J.K. Rowlinginit
3. **The Sudoku Code**
   by Dan Brown
4. **Cook the Sudoku Way**
   by Nigella Lawson
5. **The Rough Guide to Sudoku**
6. **Jeremy Clarkeson's 4 x 4 Sudoku**
7. **The Sudoku Diet**
   with Carole Vorderman
8. **Training Your Sudoku**
   by the late Barbara Woodhouse

(That's quite enough Sudoku. Ed)

EYE GUIDE
HOW TO SPOT A MUSLIM MODERATE
10 TELL-TALE SIGNS

1. Prepared to condemn London bombings.
2. Only quite short beard.
3. Believes in the right of women to wear burka at all time.
4. Strongly opposes nuclear destruction of Israel and prefers it was done by more civilised means.
5. Strong believer in Iranian model of democracy.
6. Supports right of all homosexuals to be humanely stoned to death.
7. Careful not to carry rucksack on the tube.

(That's enough Moderates. Ed)

NEW OLD SAYINGS Phillip Space

- "Too many Mrs Cooks spoil the funeral"
- "Which came first – the chicken or the flu?"
- "Blair today, still here tomorrow" *(That's enough. Ed.)*

PIANO MAN IDENTITY SHOCK

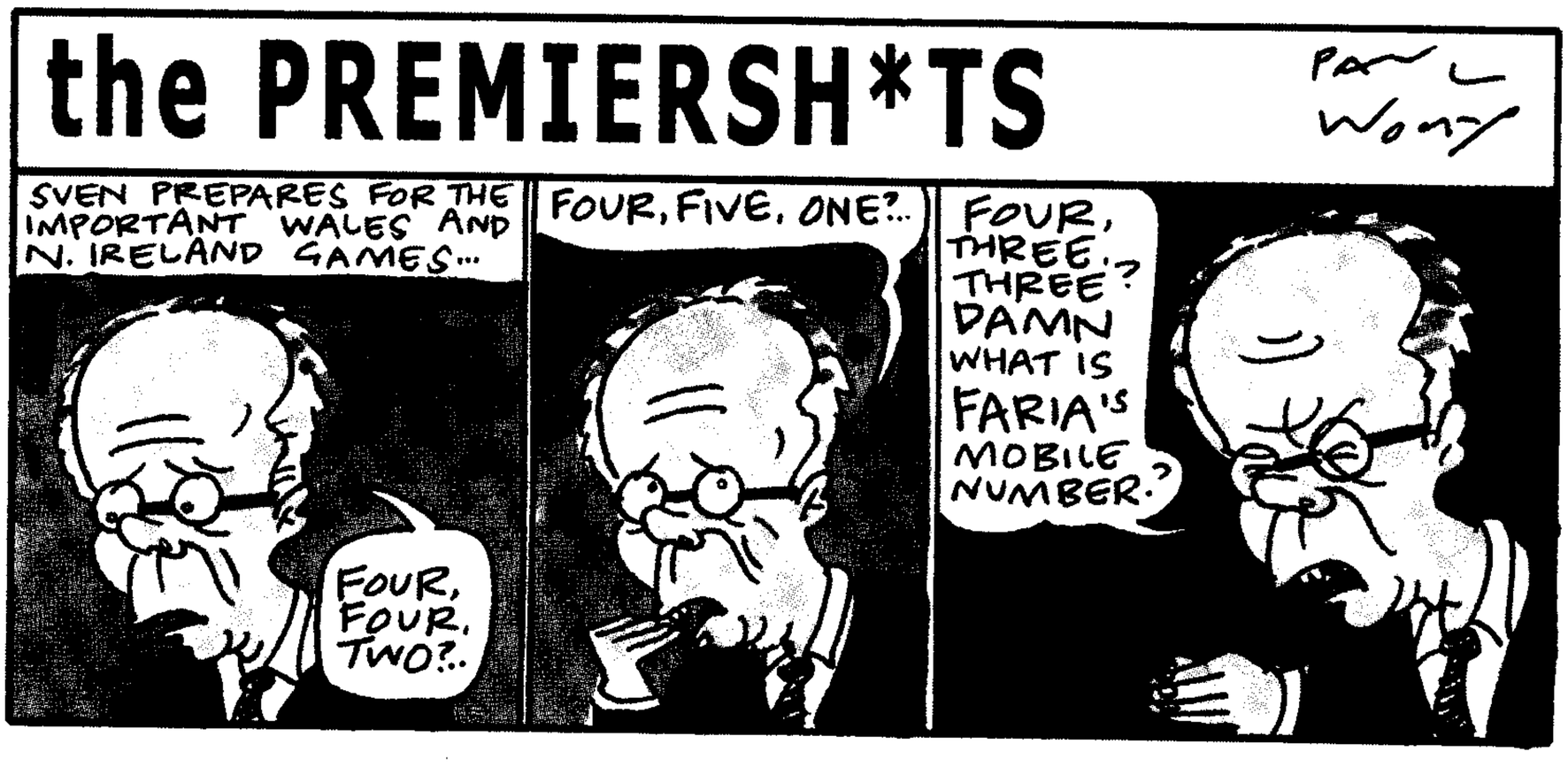
by Our Musical Staff
Al Legro and **Ann Dante**

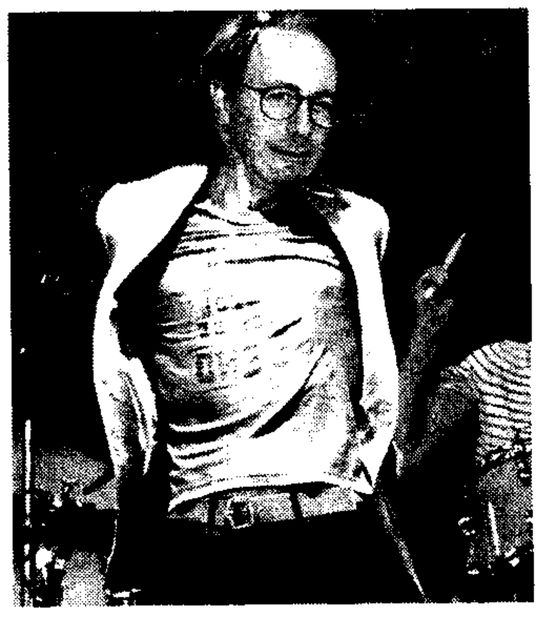
THE so-called 'Piano Man', who has appeared in concert halls all over the world, was revealed last night to have totally fooled the experts.

The mystery virtuoso turns out to be Alfred Brendel, 75, a humble Austrian concert pianist, who in reality can scarcely play a note.

But last night the bespectacled piano man with the enigmatic smile was unavailable for comment.

Said a neighbour in London's leafy Hampstead, "We always knew him as a quiet chap with a foreign accent, who kept himself to himself. We had no idea he could play the piano".


the PREMIERSH*TS
PAUL WOOD
SVEN PREPARES FOR THE IMPORTANT WALES AND N. IRELAND GAMES...
FOUR, FOUR, TWO?..
FOUR, FIVE, ONE?..
FOUR, THREE, THREE? DAMN WHAT IS FARIA'S MOBILE NUMBER?



OLD MEN GO ON TOUR – AGAIN

by our Entertainment Staff **Peter Tory**

THEIR COMBINED ages may be 794 but there is still plenty of life in the ageing band of Tory leadership candidates better known to their millions of fans (Sid and Boris Johnson) as the "Polling Drones".

Crock n' Roll

Make no mistake about it, these septuagenarian troopers can still belt out the old hits of yesteryear as if there was no tomorrow.

And here they are again to play those immortal numbers that made you get up out of your chair and vote Labour.

"I can't get no satisfaction at the Ballot Box", "Time is not on our side", and "Let's spend less of the Gross National Product on wasteful bureaucracy together".

Malc Rifkind is strutting his stuff at 83 and Kenny "Hushpuppy" is still puffing on his trademark cigars at 87.

But no-one cares about their age. In fact no-one cares about them at all.

You can catch the Polling Drones at the following venues: *Daily Telegraph* p.9 • *Daily Mail* p.7 • *Saga Magazine* p.94, next to piece about holidays in Norway.

EDEXCEL

GCSE Religious Studies

Paper One

1. Do you know anything about Religious Studies?

a) Yes b) No c) Don't know

2. If your answer to question one was a), b) or c), would you be available to mark some exam papers for us?

a) Yes b) No c) Don't know

3. The money is quite good and it'll only take you twenty minutes or so, go on please, I'll buy you lunch, would you get back to me asap?

(Time allowed to reply: 3 weeks)

CHINESE TEXTILES LATEST

POETRY CORNER

In memoriam Tonino Delli Colli

So. Farewell
Then Tonino
Delli Colli.

You were the
Cameraman on
Such masterpieces
As *Once Upon*
A Time In
The West,
Once Upon
A Time In
America,
And, best of
All, *The Good,*
The Bad And The
Ugly.

All together
Now.

Da di da
Wah-wah-wah.

E.J. Thribb
(The Poet With No Name)

DIANA ACCIDENT 'It was an accident' SENSATIONAL CLAIM

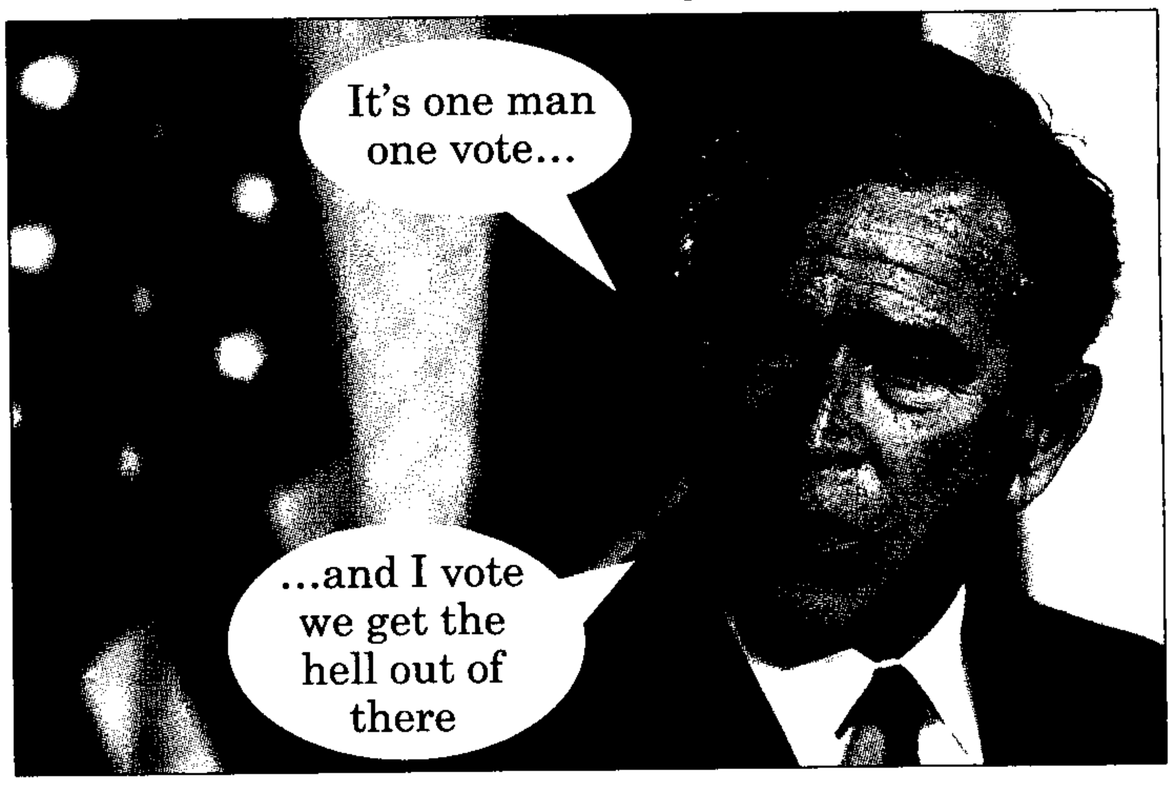
SODOM AND GOMORRAH

New deadline for talks

TALKS aimed at producing a constitution for the Cities of the Plain continued late into the night with no sign of any agreement.

Sodomites are continuing to resist proposals for a loose federal structure saying that *(cont'd p.94)*

NEW DEMOCRATIC IRAQI CONSTITUTION



Official UCAS clearing list

September 2005

Places are still available on the following courses

BA Hoodie studies Three part modular study involving field research and dissertation into contemporary Hoodie issues.
Bluewater University, Kent
The Lakeside College, Essex
Brent Cross Institute, London

BSC Ipodology Four year programming course including commercial downloading, party shuffle and troubleshooting options (special subject: unfreezing after you've only had it a month).
The University of e-bay, online
The Google Polytechnic, Llandudno
Computers R Us University, Guildford

BA Binge Drinking Management 24 hour course involving Bacardi Breezers, vodka shots, Kronenberg 1664 and Strongbow cider.
Hope & Anchor College, Moss Side
Wetherspoon University, Leeds
The Coach & Horses, Soho
(That's enough courses, Ed).

BLAIR BACKS BLAIR

by Our Police Staff **Lunchtime O'Penfire**

THE Prime Minister took time out from his busy holiday yesterday to give his unqualified public support to the man at the centre of controversy over the London bombings.

"Blair has done an excellent job," said the Prime Minister, "and he has my complete confidence. There is no reason for him to resign and it would be ludicrous for a man with all his experience to leave his job just because of one tiny mistake in invading Iraq."

The Prime Minister concluded: "Blair is the only man fit for the job, and I see no reason for him to step down and hand over to Gordon Brown.

"Now, if you will excuse me, I have got to go and put on some weight."

Sir Ian Blair is not on holiday.

ON OTHER PAGES "Was sculptor drunk?" – Eye witness shock account p.94

That New Democratic Iraqi Constitution In Full

1. Everyone shall be entitled to have a share in the governance of Iraq except the following: Sunnis, the Baath Party, non-believers, women, anyone except Shia clerics.

2. The greatest natural resource of Iraq is oil. This to be shared equally between a) the Kurds; b) the Sh-ites; c) the Americans.

3. Er...

4. ...that's it.

Signed G.W. Bush *and whichever Iraqi ministers have managed to survive 'friendly fire' by US occupying forces this week.*

TV Highlights

Police Camera Action

Monday 9.30pm (ITV 2)

More amazing footage of gangs of armed police vandalising CCTV cameras on London tube platforms to make sure they don't work.

Eye rating: *MET little resistance*

They're Having Kittens

Saturday 7.30pm (BBC 1)

A brand-new reality show which charts the reactions of eight senior male BBC executives after they are told just how dreadfully their awful new Saturday night show *He's Having A Baby* is doing in the ratings.

Eye rating: *Give it the push!*

'GUINEA PIGS' EXPERIMENTS DEFENDED

by Our Science Correspondent

LEADING animal rights protesters have defended their controversial experiments on human guinea pigs, the Hall family, at Darley Oaks Farm in Staffordshire, saying the results justify their six-year campaign of harassment.

"You might think it's cruel to vandalise these human guinea pigs' property, terrify them, deprive them of sleep and steal their grandmother's remains from the local cemetery," said a leading animal rights liberationist, "but it's allowed us to see at first hand how you can destroy the lives of a family of law-abiding farmers through mob rule.

"It's only by carrying out these experiments on these human guinea pigs that we can get the results we want."

Celeb

LIGGER

IN VIEW OF THE ONGOING THREAT OF TERRORIST ATTACK, I SUGGEST YOU BOTH HAVE ICE NUMBERS PUT ON YOUR MOBILES..
ICE NUMBERS?
"IN CASE OF EMERGENCY" NUMBERS, SIR.
OH RIGHT.
IT'S SO IF, HEAVEN FORBID, THE WORST SHOULD HAPPEN, THE AUTHORITIES KNOW WHO TO INFORM.
OKAY.
I'LL USE MY PR'S NUMBER.
AND I'LL HAVE THE OBITUARIES EDITOR AT THE TIMES.

Literary Review

Gaga saga

Human Traces
Sebastian Faulks
(Hutchinson, £17.99)

THERE'S NOWT so queer as folk, the saying goes, and now Sebastian Faulks has explained why. Queer in this sense meaning odd, eccentric or just plain mad. And the reason is that a predisposition to psychosis is so intimately bound up with the higher complexity of the human brain that they must have evolved together. The process of natural selection which gave *homo sapiens* the mental agility that divides him from the rest of creation also, and ineradicably, made him *homo insanus*.

There's a good deal more to this thumping great 600-pager than that, of course. *Human Traces* is a novel and Faulks has sought to dramatise his thesis on the causes of insanity by wrapping it up in a sort of family saga, set in the late 19th century, with scenes of love and war. But it's mostly about madness.

The story concerns two alienists or "mad-doctors", one French, one English. They are partners but also rivals. Jacques Robière studied in Paris and, being French, is the more passionate and theoretical of the two. He believes in the power of auto-suggestion and the interpretation of dreams. Thomas Midwinter is the empirical Englishman, who has actually worked in an asylum, and believes that madness must have a physical cause and treatment. He is the one who develops the idea that psychosis is inherent in the human condition.

The story begins in 1876, when both are teenagers, and follows them through the course of their studies, their coincidental meeting, their setting up in partnership, their financial successes and medical failures, their interconnected love lives and families and, going on into the 1920s, their disappointed old age. Jacques's brother Olivier is afflicted with what we would now call paranoid schizophrenia, and his desire to find a cure before it is too late is what motivates him to enter this branch of medicine. For the pragmatic Thomas, studying medicine is a way of getting sent to university, where he would rather read literature, and he becomes an alienist more or less by accident.

They set up their sanatorium on a mountainside overlooking a lake in Austria. While some of their international clientele are genuinely bonkers, refugees from the harsh bedlam of the traditional madhouse (including Jacques' brother, Olivier), others are simply there for an agreeable rest-cure with daily massage and a scenic view.

On the way, there are some rather ghastly scenes set in Victorian lunatic asylums. There are lectures, anatomical demonstrations and surgical operations. There are learned papers on aspects of insanity reproduced, or rather pastiched, verbatim. There are trips for research to Africa and America. There's even a glossary of relevant medical terms.

In between all these chunks of madness, there's the stuff about love and rivalry. Thomas's sister Sonia makes a bad match with the ghastly Mr Prendergast, whose sole function seems to be to take her and Thomas on holiday to France so that they can meet Jacques. After a convenient divorce, she is free to marry the passionate Frenchman, whose love for her goes hand-in-hand with his friendship for her brother.

Later on Thomas also meets the love of his life, the mysterious "Katherina von A". She is a patient of the sanatorium whose misdiagnosis by Jacques, and its subsequent correction by Thomas, dramatises the latent rivalry between the two doctors. True to their characters (or the schools of thought they represent), the theoretical Jacques thinks Kitty's illness is caused by hysteria, and tries to treat her by interpreting her dreams, whereas the empirical Thomas, invited to give a second opinion, finds a combination of ovarian cysts, which are duly operated on, and rheumatic fever. One palpitation leads to another, and before long they are married.

Towards the end of the book Faulks adds to the mix the two elements that made that his bestseller *Birdsong* so popular, namely a passionate extramarital love affair and traumatic scenes of carnage from the First World War. The war scenes will come as a reprise to anyone familiar with the earlier novel, being more of the same only less so; and the same might be said of the sex scenes, which are rather less purple than the prose that once earned Faulks the *Literary Review* Bad Sex Award. For example: "She put her arms round his neck and whispered the rough invitation he had craved, and when she said the word, he drove himself completely into her." It sounds like the report of a motor accident; an impression confirmed when one reads, some pages later, that "he could see the detail of the junction where their flesh met".

It's a long novel and one of the problems is that for much of the first 300 or so pages there is simply not enough conflict or tension to keep things moving. The early careers of the two doctors, their exam successes, their profitable partnership with its idyllic location, their happy families: it's a case of "where did it all go right?" Happiness writes white, as the saying goes. The scientific stuff, fascinating as it will be for many lay readers, may not be enough to keep them gripped.

Another problem is that Faulks occasionally appears not to be fully in control of all his material. An asylum inmate who declares she never learnt to read is later seen reading to other patients at the new clinic. While Thomas is in Africa looking for fossils, he has an argument with a white hunter and smashes his glasses. The man can't see without them, yet some pages later Thomas has him helping at an impromptu torchlight post-mortem, and commenting on the intricate pattern of the dead man's brain; two pages further on, the man declares he can't see anything without his glasses.

As to the science, there's already been some academic carping about the alleged anachronism of Faulks's central thesis, whether it is really something that could have been arrived at on the evidence then available or was borrowed from the more recent work of one of his consultants. That seems to miss the point. *Human Traces* must be judged as a novel, not a history book or scientific text, and its problem is that it can't make up its mind which of these it should be. So it tries to be all of them and somehow doesn't quite succeed in being any of them.

First Drafts

Les Miserables
A jolly musical romp set in revolutionary France with some cracking songs about poverty and betrayal
Pearsall.

Victor Hugo

WHAT YOU COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO READ

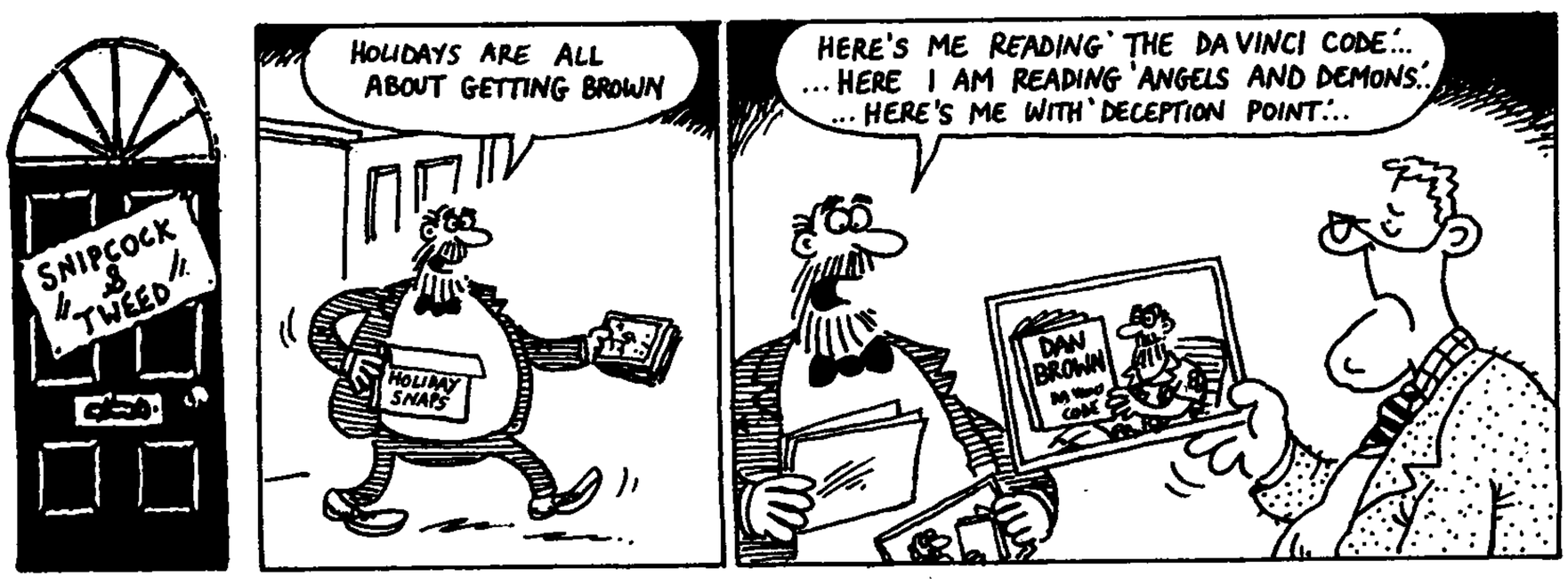
The Unauthorised Biography of John Mortimer
Graham Lord

HIS NEW play *A Walk Round The Park* opened on 3 July 1973 at the Piccadilly Theatre. The reviews were generally enthusiastic, but one critic, Walter Wainwright of the *Richmond Times*, said he was "very disappointed". Apparently, his car had broken down and he was the forced to miss the first act. Although the play ran for 500 performances, by the end of 1974 audiences had began to dwindle and sometimes the theatre was less than half full. "In the end, we had to take it off, so few people were coming," remembers impresario Sidney "Sweetie" Bickerstaff.

Mortimer was "plainly shattered", recalls Jim Tremlett, who played the part of the young schoolmaster, Mr Barkworth. But given the generally limp nature of much of the play, its failure was perhaps not so surprising.

Mortimer had been unable to conceal his admiration for his leading lady Sylvia Wapshott, who remembers how he used to gaze at her with undisguised longing at the rehearsals. I asked her if he had ever suggested that she should dress up in leather gear and beat him with a hockey stick, but she denied that he had ever done anything of the kind. "He was such good company, drinking champagne and telling funny stories," she recalls. For once, it seems, the Mortimer charm had failed and he was unable to realise his wilder fantasies of sado-masochistic pleasure.

That autumn, after a brief holiday in Patagonia, he started work on yet another novel, *Paradise Valley*. Repetitive, over-long and, in some instances, scarcely literate, it was, unaccountably, a great success and praised by all the critics. Was it possible that Mortimer had given each of them a bribe of £10,000, as was hinted at the time in an anonymous letter sent to the *Sunday Mirror*? "I would not put it past him," Soho alcoholic Rodney Lush told me shortly before his death. "He was such a bastard. I hated him. Those poofs are all the same. I remember once when I" *(cont. p. 94)*


SNIPCOCK & TWEED
HOLIDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT GETTING BROWN
HOLIDAY SNAPS
HERE'S ME READING 'THE DA VINCI CODE'...
...HERE I AM READING 'ANGELS AND DEMONS'...
...HERE'S ME WITH 'DECEPTION POINT'...
DAN BROWN

Pseuds Corner

... this was cricket played on the edge, absolutely in keeping with the reality of contemporary city life.

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN-JENKINS
The Times

Into the sullen and stagnant water of the national discourse on gays, marriage and children, the iconoclastic views of Italy's fashion stars pop like a garish, multi-coloured fish.

PETER POPHAM
Independent

I am writing this in pink socks (£9.95, from a specialist Japanese supplier in Chelsea) and a floral shirt (Paul Smith, £130). My manicured nails skip across the keypad, and I am in a miasma of perfumed air: the Black Ginger scented candle I use in my office (from Votivo of Washington state) is competing, not altogether successfully, with the vapours of tuberose and thyme (interwoven with ginger pepper and fennel oils) which I splash on liberally to maintain a high level of positive fragrance throughout the working day. Before I left the house I completed my usual regime of papaya enzyme scrub and whortleberry anti-aging *[sic]* cream. As soon as I have finished writing, I'm off for my fortnightly haircut – £40 a snip at a place that does women... In almost every respect, other than sexual preferences, I fulfil the popular expectations of what it is to be gay... *[continues]*

STEPHEN BAYLEY (on 'primping and preening'), *Guardian*

The result is a uniquely random network of jostling vacuoles and sinuous dendrites that appears every bit as live and coursing as the leaf veins that suggested it. But Broughton Grange's walled garden is also – and deliberately – an essay in glorious paradoxes and extremes. So, although the structure of the parterre is a vastly magnified quote from one of the smallest elements of the surrounding landscape (the tissue of a tree leaf) its tenants are an overt and outrageous homage to our ability to breed and cultivate. They are, in spring, tulips – thousands of them and chosen not on the basis of ghastly good taste, but in order to present as vivaciously polychromatic a picture as possible – something painted, perhaps, by a pointillist turned Fauve. As the garden and adjacent fields begin to stir, the parterre appears to levitate among them like some wildly extravagant magic carpet.

MARK GRIFFITHS
Country Life

CONTRIBUTORS: Gordon Clarke, Freddy Gray, David Smith, Jonathan H. Cooke.

£10 paid for all entries

IN THE BACK

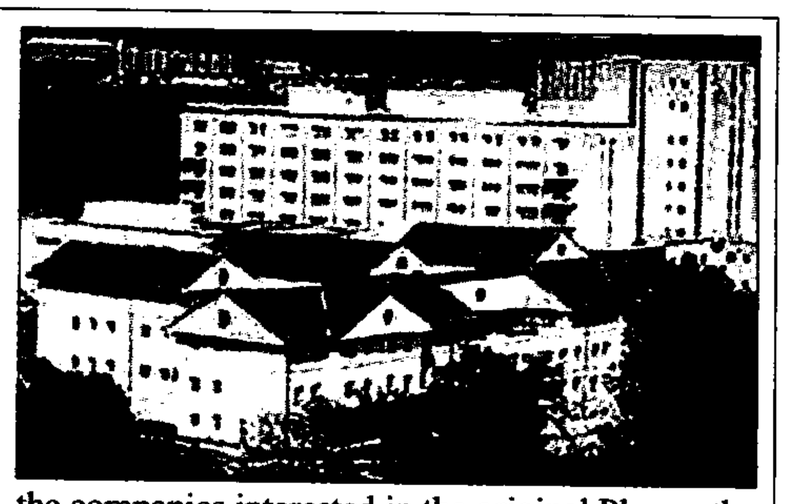
PFI DEALS

Hospitals down, profits up

FURTHER evidence that, when it comes to investing in hospitals, the demands of big PFI companies take precedence over the needs of the health service has emerged from Devon.

Last year Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust announced plans for a new care centre and the refurbishment of its existing Derriford hospital under a £300m PFI scheme, but has had to go back to the drawing board to make the deal more attractive to the private finance industry.

PFI deals for refurbishing existing hospitals – under which a private consortium would buy the hospital, renovate it and lease it back to the NHS – aren't nearly as profitable as building new ones, for which the companies can demand huge returns on the pretext that they are taking "construction risks". So it was no surprise when all but one of



the companies interested in the original Plymouth scheme pulled out, leaving the trust to negotiate just with Medico Vanguard, a consortium backed by pisspoor PFI firm Amey. In the absence of any competition for the contract, earlier this year the project was quietly abandoned.

A few weeks later, however, after some intense discussions with the fixers at the Department of Health, the trust came up with what project director Andy Ibbs described as "an even more exciting proposal ... that will produce better facilities all round for patients and be more attractive to companies interested in bidding".

Predictably, this involves knocking down the Derriford hospital (pictured) and building a new one, a far juicier prospect for the PFI companies. The traditional (and cheaper) pre-PFI method of keeping what was already there and borrowing some money to refurbish it appears to have been too boring even to have been considered.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Cost-cutting kills

WHILE ministers were rightly heaping praise on the emergency services who dealt with the appalling aftermath of the 7/7 London bombings, they were also engaged in a behind-the-scenes shafting of one vital section of them – the ambulance crews.

As part of its "Agenda for Change" the health department is supposed to be promoting equal pay for equal work throughout the NHS, with workers falling within different pay bands reflecting their relative skills. Except that in order to save money, many ambulance staff are being effectively de-skilled in order to fall into a lower payband.

The *Eye* spoke to one ambulance technician who is trained to make life-saving decisions, administer drugs, unblock airways, shock a failed heart, etc. Not quite up to full paramedic status, he could, in an emergency fulfil a vital triage role without super–vision. He has in the past been out in an ambulance and hospital emergency car on his own.

But he and many of his colleagues are now being demoted to band four – "ambulance practitioner". In future he will only be able to perform such skills under supervision. After a bomb or serious train crash he could only assist a nurse, doctor or a more skilled paramedic. If he was dealing with a heart attack victim on his own, he would have to phone-in during vital life-saving minutes for supervision over the air.

He is currently earning £21,000 a year, but the band he will be placed in will carry a salary of £19,500. He has been told he won't actually have to take a pay cut – his salary will simply be frozen for a few years until the band catches up with it.

He and his colleagues want to be re-banded to level five – "ambulance practitioner specialist' – which of course is what they are. That will allow them to continue to use their life-saving skills – and be paid properly for it.

PAYING FOR POLICING

Old Bill, new bills

CHARITIES, sports clubs and community event organisers have been receiving huge bills from Inspector Knacker this summer, as new guidance on charging for police services from the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) starts to take effect.

The Acpo guidelines were introduced in April with the aim that all forces would charge in the same way to recover the cost of policing private events "from local festivals to grand prix". Under the guidelines, commercial events such as pop concerts will have to pay the full cost of policing, while "statutory" events such as war commemorations will not be charged. For charity events a chief constable may choose to charge 50 percent of the policing cost.

In South Wales Knacker charged the Royal National Lifeboat Institution £4,000 to send along officers to the annual Mumbles raft race fundraiser on 21 August. Despite 21 years of running the event with no problems, organisers were told that unless they coughed up, they wouldn't pass their risk assessment and couldn't put on the event at all.

Last year's raft race raised £15,400 – meaning that even with similar good turnout, the policing will have cost more than a quarter of the funds likely to have been raised for the lifeboat service this year. South Wales police say they only charged around half of the full cost of policing the race because of the good cause. But had the event been a wash-out, the police charges could have easily left the event making a loss.

Meanwhile sports clubs are facing huge hikes in charges for policing home games. Football clubs on Merseyside, from mighty Liverpool to lowly Tranmere Rovers, have already been told they will see their bills rise by 43 percent.

A quirk of the rules means organisers of events such as the Defence Systems Equipment international arms fair (DSEi), to be held in London's Docklands later this month, will get away with a relatively small bill, despite the massive cost of policing. Because the event is indoors, in an exhibition hall, and the protests against it will be in the streets outside, the taxpayer will bear most of the cost. According to the Met, the cost of deploying 1,600 officers to deal with protests at the same event in 2003 was more than £4m.

PROPERTY DEVELOPERS

Shut up – or we'll take away your home

PROPERTY giants George Wimpey (last year's profits £450m plus) are determined to extract their pound of flesh from residents' campaigner Lynette Burrows after winning a legal battle over one of their large housing developments.

Wimpey subsidiary Laing Homes is pressing ahead with an order for the sale of Mrs Burrows' terraced home in Hills Road, Cambridge, in order to enforce the £55,000 legal costs she was ordered to pay – despite an offer of £40,000 from her neighbours to settle the bill and an offer from Mrs Burrows herself to pay at a rate of £200 a month.

"She took me to court; she lost and I want my £55,000," Lee Bishop, regional manager for Laing told David Constable, a neighbour who was seeking to negotiate a settlement.

This is typical of the bullyboy tactics Laing have employed ever since the small residents association, of which 56-year-old Mrs Burrows is chair, sought to fight for what they believed was their rights over a small strip of land at the back of their houses, on which they had parked their cars for decades – until Laing bought the site as part of a planned development of 183 flats.

Initially the neighbours were granted an injunction against Laing, because it was decided that there was a case for having "user rights" after 20 years of access. At first all 10 residents were part of the action, but when Laing threatened that it might counterclaim for damages running at a £1,000 a day plus costs, the other residents became witnesses rather than plaintiffs and Mrs Burrows, alone, continued with the action.

Days before the trial was due to take place, Laing wrote to Mrs Burrows' solicitor saying that should the matter go to court and the company win, it would also seek £54,084.39 damages plus £50,000 costs, adding: "We are not seeking to threaten your client… simply pointing out the risk to your client of proceeding." In the event Mrs Burrows lost the action because Laing produced witnesses from a car hire business who claimed they had rented the land in question in 1979 on a five-year lease – taking them five crucial months into the 20-year deadline.

The residents believed they had a wealth of evidence: builders who had worked there at the relevant time, council building grants from the late 1970s; old photos of their cars and children which would date the period to before 1984. David Constable told the *Eye* that his father used to park several old cars round the back as long ago as 1965. But the county court judge rejected all their evidence and concluded that Mrs Burrows was "unreliable".

Mrs Burrows now intends to fight Laing in the European courts, advised by a sympathetic lawyer on a *pro bono* basis. She will argue that the costs order was unreasonable given the resources available to and the conduct employed by Laing Homes. She will ask the court to set aside the costs order, until she gets them re-assessed.

Laing Homes said in a statement: "This was a case initiated by Mrs Burrows against Laing Homes which should never have gone to court. Prior to the hearing, Laing Homes made a number of offers to settle the matter out of court, all of which Mrs Burrows rejected." (This, say the residents, amounted to one verbal suggestion of a small strip for Mrs Burrows alone, not her neighbours, and was never put in writing.)

The statement goes on: "After a four-day trial the judge rejected the evidence presented by Mrs Burrows and found in favour of Laing Homes. She also ordered Mrs Burrows to pay the company's costs, which she assessed at £55,000. The decision of the county court has subsequently been upheld by the court of appeal."

STOP PRESS: On Friday 26 August a judge took the charge off Mrs Burrows's house and ruled that, at least until costs are fully assessed later this month, she does not owe Laing a penny.

WHISTLEBLOWING

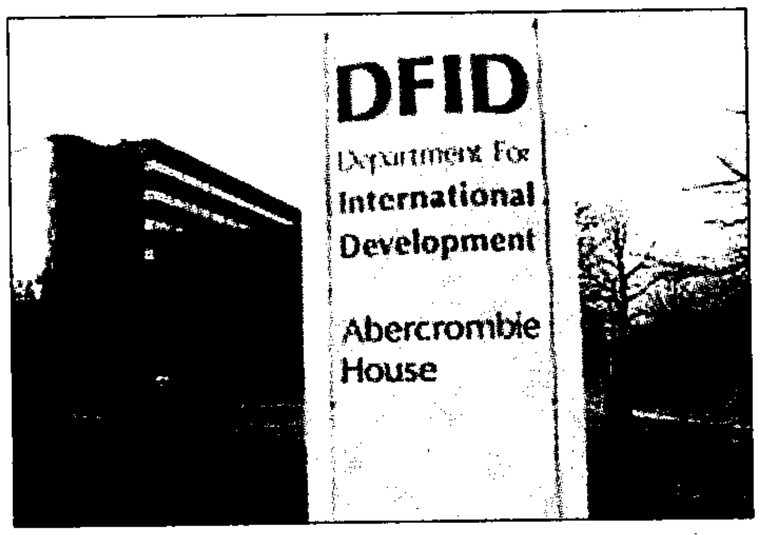
Defensive DFID

A WHISTLEBLOWER, fired after reporting poor financial controls on a British government-funded project in Ghana to his department for international development (DFID) bosses, has lost a six-year fight to get his job back.

Howard Horsley, now 60, gave up his job as a successful headteacher in Grimsby to lead Britain's education project in Ghana in 1999. While on sick leave in the UK later that year, due to typhoid, he drew the department's attention to poor financial and budgetary controls in the programme which he, and colleagues in other aid agencies in Ghana, felt created the potential for corruption in purchasing.

Just as he was about to return to Ghana, he was fired. He was told not to talk about what happened, under threat of the official secrets act. Internal proceedings got nowhere and an employment tribunal refused jurisdiction under legal technicalities – DFID claimed he hadn't been working there long enough to be "unfairly dismissed" and wasn't quick enough to apply under the public interest disclosure act.

Then the civil service commissioners ruled that he was employed under the royal prerogative (usually used to pay employees of foreign governments, funded through British aid) which left him with even fewer employment rights.



Adding insult to injury, DFID refused even to give Mr Horsley references for another job.

Last month Grimsby MP Austin Mitchell raised the matter in an adjournment debate. He became involved in the case in 2002 and got the national audit office (NAO) to look into the situation in Ghana. It found that financial controls were indeed lax and that "in view of the laxity of the controls, corruption was possible" – just as Mr Horsley had feared – although no actual corruption was found.

The parliamentary under-secretary of state for international development, Gareth Thomas, responded with a long diatribe about the wonders of DFID and its commitment to Africa, before concluding that the department "considered the matter closed" and griping that costs of investigating and reviewing the case "now exceed £40,000".

That's hardly the fault of a man who was trying to *protect* DFID resources.

FINANCIAL REGULATION

Out of control

WHEN Citibank was fined £14m by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) a couple of months ago for dumping billions of pounds worth of bonds on the market before buying them back for a £10m profit using the "Dr Evil" computer programme, one of the main findings against the firm was that it had failed to train its staff properly in "standards of market conduct".

A regulator might be expected to respond to the inability of the world's largest bank to train its people adequately by insisting on a certain independently verifiable degree of competence in those with their fingers on the buttons. Not the FSA though, which is more fashionably concerned with minimising the regulatory burden on the financial sector and last month issued proposals to cut reams of rules in favour of more general "principles" for firms to follow.

One of the more controversial plans is to remove the requirement for traders who deal with other traders to have certain qualifications, leaving it entirely to their employers to decide if they need them. The type of traders they have in mind are exactly those at Citibank who almost wrecked the market in government bonds last year. And the qualifications they need before they can be let loose with billions of pounds of various governments' debts will be judged by the same managers who, in the FSA's own words, "failed to take reasonable care to organise and control [Citibank's] affairs responsibly and effectively".

ACCOUNTANCY

It doesn't add up

BRITISH accountants successfully resisted a post-Enron clampdown of the sort imposed on their US counterparts by convincing the government that standards were much higher on this side of Atlantic – a claim that was unlikely to be exposed in their cosy self-regulatory world.

Evidence has now emerged from one government body with a strong interest in companies' accounts, HM Revenue and Customs, that this rosy picture was more than a little misleading.

As part of arrangements coming into force next year to allow the Revenue to report dodgy accounts they come across to the Financial Reporting Review Panel (FRRP), the taxmen presented the regulator with 14 examples where one of the big four auditors (KPMG, Ernst & Young, PwC and Deloitte) had "cleared incorrect accounts" when "the correct accountancy treatment should have been obvious". The FRRP concluded that the accounts were indefensible but could take no action under current law.

More worryingly, the Revenue's chief accountant responsible for multinational companies reported that these cases were just those that his small team had come up with off the top of their heads. They only look at the small proportion where dodgy figures might reduce a company's tax bill.

Against this evidence of wide-scale accountancy failures the FRRP this month produced its first report under a drive to become more "pro-active". The panel, which includes past and current partners from all the big four bean-counters, found "no evidence of systemic weakness" in the hundreds of accounts it looked at for itself and made minor corrections in just three cases. How reassuring.

MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE

The murder that never was

ONE OF THE major obstacles faced by those locked up for crimes they did not commit is the need to uncover fresh evidence in order to persuade the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) to refer a case to the Court of Appeal.

Now there is concern that even when presented with strong fresh material, the CCRC are wrongly rejecting it if it comes in the form of expert evidence.

Jong Rhee was convicted of the murder of his wife Natalie in a guest-house fire in Snowdonia in 1997. He is serving a life sentence in Gartree prison.

Rhee has always maintained that it was a crime that never was. When fire broke out in the downstairs lounge, the only means of escape for the couple was through their bedroom window. He jumped first, so that he could catch his wife, when she followed. But she never jumped. Her body was found at the foot of the bed.

The prosecution claimed at Rhee's trial in Chester in April 1998 that he had restrained his wife and then set two fires – one in the lounge and one in their bedroom, using an accelerant – before jumping to safety through the bedroom window. The motive was alleged to have been financial: Rhee, who was born in South Korea, had gambling debts and would benefit from his wife's life insurance policy.

There was no evidence to support the theory that his wife had been restrained, or that an accelerant had been used. The key evidence against him was the guest-house owner's contradictory account about how the fire spread through the house – given some 14 days after the tragedy.

In prison Rhee read about Professor David Purser, a leading toxicologist who has advised the government on fire safety issues for more than 20 years and has given evidence in trials in the UK and the US. Prof. Purser agreed to look at the case.

The crucial fact for Purser was the 79 percent level of carbon monoxide in Natalie's blood. "That is consistent with someone who's been remote from the fire," he said. "It is extremely unlikely that anyone could have survived the heat exposure from a fire in the bedroom, which had been started using accelerants, long enough to have attained a 79 percent carbon monoxide concentration."

However, the CCRC has rejected Pursuer's evidence, arguing that "he is not a pathologist; Dr Acland [a prosecution expert] is a pathologist and his opinion would necessarily carry more weight".

The commission has missed the point: Purser is a fire toxicologist, one of very few in the world, whose qualifications concern specifically the interaction of fires with people. His knowledge is much more specialised than that of a general pathologist. In fact no one at the trial had any expertise in either fire toxicology or fire pathology.

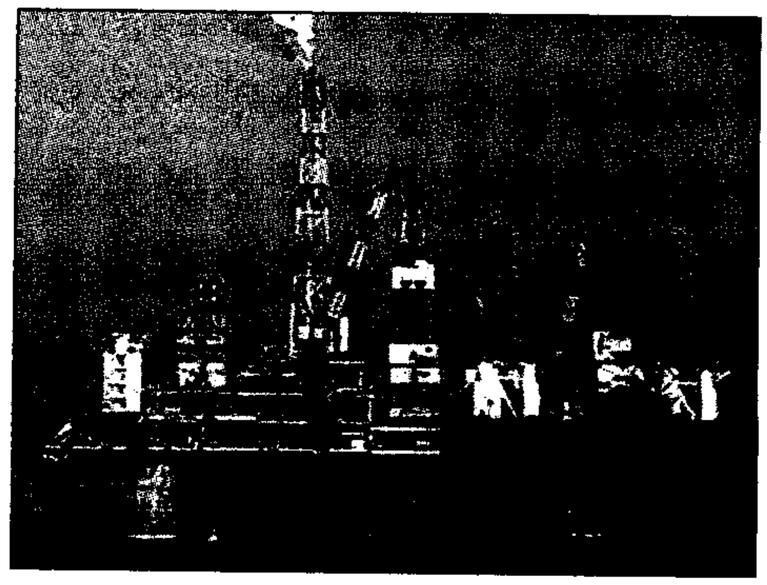
Dr Acland's evidence about the death was based on the account of the guest-house owner. But her original statements were inconsistent with her evidence at the trial. In her statement she said she entered a "fully burning" lounge; at the trial she said she stood outside. In her statement, she claimed to have smelt petrol; at the trial she did not. In her statement, she said she had used Rhee's mobile to dial 999; handed a mobile in court, she was unable to turn it on. She described Rhee as naked; other witnesses say he was wearing boxer shorts.

Yet the CCRC described the landlady's evidence as "impressive".

Jong Rhee's solicitor, Campbell Malone, said: "Fresh expert evidence does seem to be a problem for the CCRC. We agree that defendants cannot go on and on finding better experts. But the Court of Appeal has always been prepared to consider fresh expert evidence if the interests of justice demand it, and especially as in this case, where justice depends on a developing science."

TAX DODGING

Little and large



WHILE soaring oil prices have been swelling the coffers of the big producers for some time, the companies are rarely above dodging some tax to make even higher profits – and their international operations provide plenty of opportunities.

The latest company to exploit a favourite tax scam in the former Soviet countries is BP. Its joint venture with Russian oil giant TNK stands accused by the Audit Chamber of Russia of moving profits into Siberia's Tyumen province in order to take advantage of lower tax rates using the well-worn "transfer pricing" scam, which the company insists is legitimate. BP-TNK is said to have sold oil to Tyumen companies under its control at a reduced price before they sell it on to refineries at the going rate, making handsome profits and in the process saving BP-TNK around $150m (£83m) a year in tax.

Back in Britain, meanwhile, BP is fighting tax laws that it doesn't like as one of the companies taking the government to the European Court under the "group litigation orders" (GLOs) that threaten to cost the exchequer billions (*Eyes passim*).

None of this seems to spoil BP's warm relationship with the tax authorities. The company's tax director, Adam Little, has just been asked to co-chair HM Revenue and Customs' "large corporates forum", an influential body in the development of tax policy for multinationals.

FLIGHT SAFETY

Airline sacked poisoned pilot

A FREAK human victim of the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak, whose plight has gone largely unnoticed, is airline pilot Andrew Sayers, who lost his health and his job after contact with a toxic chemical used as a disinfectant.

On 30 March 2001, while at the controls of a Loganair plane flying from Shetland to Fair Isle, Captain Sayers felt ill and was violently sick. He struggled to keep control of his plane, which had four passengers on board, before landing safely – and then passing out.

It later emerged that, before entering the plane, he had been splashed with FAM30, a substance containing sulphuric and phosphoric acids, which was used to soak the shoes of passengers and staff to prevent the transmission of foot and mouth.

A fire crew called to the plane found Sayers slumped on the office floor and phoned a doctor. This almost certainly saved Capt Sayers' life. On arrival at hospital he was, in the words of a senior ambulance nurse, "blue in colour and considered near death by the medical staff". Sayers, 48, now suffers from severe breathing difficulties and chemical sensitivity.

He filed an incident report and it led to a warning from the Civil Aviation Authority to all airlines about the dangers of contamination from the disinfectants: "Aircraft operators are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure the safety of aircraft and crews. You should review your operations manuals to ensure that they contain sufficient guidance to crew in this respect."

Since the incident, Loganair has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing. In fact, its reaction was to sack Capt Sayers on the grounds of unfitness to fly. He has been fighting Loganair through the courts ever since.

Although he failed in an initial claim for negligence, in June last year Capt Sayers won his claim for unfair dismissal. He had claimed he had been sacked for whistleblowing and unreasonable treatment over his incapacity. And while the tribunal accepted he had made a protected disclosure regarding the use of the foot and mouth disinfectant, the tribunal concluded that this was not the main reason for his dismissal. The main reason was his incapiacity and it heavily criticised Loganair over its treatment of Sayers, its failure to properly assess his incapacity and to offer to redeploy him, once it was clear that he could no longer fly solo. The tribunal concluded that Loganair was looking for a pretext to sack the pilot and had no real intention of finding alternative employment. It described Loganair's claim that it did not want to sack Sayers as "not genuine".

Last May the airline took the case to an appeal tribunal, which concluded that it was "reasonable" to sack a pilot because he was unfit to fly. However, as the appeal did not consider how he became unfit, Capt Sayers – supported by Balpa, the pilots' union, is now taking his claim to the Scottish Court of Sessions.

Missed penalty

THREE years ago an investigation by the *Guardian's* Nick Davies alleged that big multinationals were treated favourably by the Inland Revenue when it came to charging penalties for false tax returns.

The Revenue's then deputy chairman Ann Chant categorically rebutted the charge, telling Davies: "Just like all other taxpayers, companies dealt with by our large business office are subject to statutory penalties if they submit fraudulent or negligent tax returns." Pressed by Davies, however, the Revenue couldn't say just how much it had penalised big businesses.

Minutes now published of a meeting of the Revenue's business tax forum (another joint government-industry body) a few weeks ago support Davies's story. The meeting heard from HM Revenue and Customs' head of policy Dave Hartnett that "in the past they [the Revenue] had not traditionally collected large penalties from big companies. There is an issue of whether going forward they ought to do things differently."

Legal loopholes available only to large groups of companies and amenable relations with the Revenue have long enabled the wealthiest firms to avoid penalties for false tax returns while smaller businesses are punished for similar offences. But perhaps after many years the government is at least *thinking* about bringing the big boys into line.

You can contact the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017

In the City

IT IS INTERESTING to speculate as to exactly when the beancounters' eager new regulator, the Accountancy Investigation & Discipline Board (AIDB), would have announced its investigation into Deloitte & Touche over the MG Rover scandal if the decision had not been revealed in the last *Eye*. The AIDB announced its investigation within hours of the *Eye* hitting the newsstands on 17 August.

As reported in the last issue, the AIDB's decision had been taken at a meeting more than a month earlier, on 14 July. But two weeks later on 25 July, when the AIDB informed the Institute of Chartered Accountants of that decision, it also made clear that (in the cause of open regulation no doubt) "the board has decided it would not currently be in the public interest to publish its decision"!

That remarkable verdict was to be reviewed two weeks later. But if so the policy of saying nothing to upset Deloittes was still unchanged more than three weeks later, by the time the *Eye* broke the story.

Exactly what the "public interest" was in NOT announcing such an important investigation – the AIDB has only commenced one other, into the also collapsed Mayflower Corporation, since it opened for business last year – remains unclear. Regulation, like justice, has to be seen to be done to be effective.

What purpose silence served other than to spare the blushes of Deloittes chairman Martin Scicluna (currently under investigation for failing to blow the whistle on a former colleague) and chief executive John Connolly (found wanting over the Barlow Clowes scandal) is a mystery.

Hopefully the AIDB were not cowed by the bullying tactics of Deloittes towards its still operating predecessor the Joint Disciplinary Scheme and *Accountancy Age,* when the firm sought to obtain an injunction blocking publication of the JDS proceedings against Deloittes and Scicluna over the Capital Corporation audit and former partner Stephen Ives' Range Rover. Deloittes' lawyers threatened to demand their costs against the JDS when it opposed the "gag" order which was eventually rejected in ringing tones by Mr Justice Laddie as against the public interest.

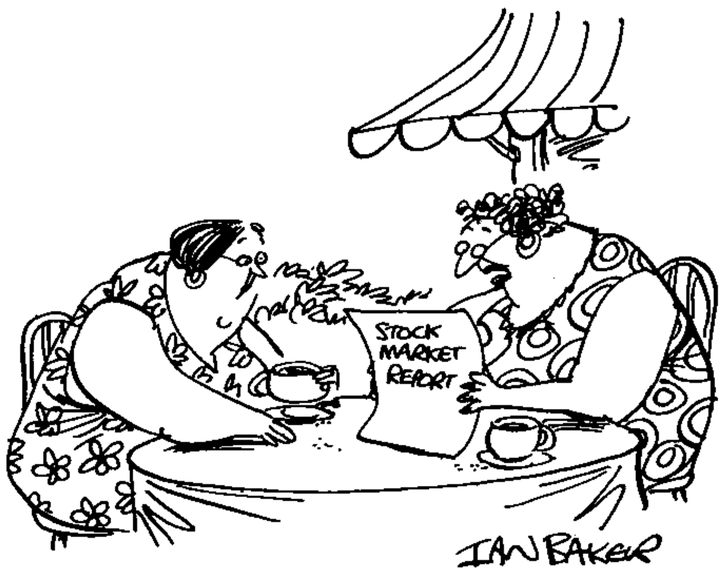
That the AIDB should think it better not to announce that it was probing Deloittes' role at the spectacularly bust car maker and its parent company owned by the Phoenix Four gives little comfort for its future as a tough regulator.

It was also interesting to note that the AIDB made no mention of the fact that the ICA had referred Deloittes to the AIDB for investigation, instead suggesting that the decision was all at its own initiative "following consultation" with the ICA.

Both suggest that beancounter politics have been at work plus the power of the big firms like Deloittes lobbying to prevent public embarrassment.

THE burgeoning litigation stemming from the Parmalat fraud presents an amusing coincidence. Deloittes took over the rotated audit of the Italian fraud from smaller rivals Grant Thornton. Both are now being sued and there will no doubt be much mutual pointing of beancounter fingers.

So it is interesting to note that Deloittes' own auditors for its UK limited liability partnership are none other than – Grant Thornton.



"I've lost four hundred pounds on the Atkins Diet!"

JOHN CONNOLLY has pulled well clear in the salary stakes among the UK bean counting Big Four. His income as Deloittes' chief executive last year jumped from £2.9m to a mere £3.6m.

Mike Rake, senior partner at KPMG, was second in 2004 with just under £2.5m.

Chairman Kieran Poynter at Pricewaterhouse-Coopers came third with just over £2m.

Pity poor Nick Land, chairman of Ernst & Young, who had to struggle by on a pittance of £1.3m. But no doubt that figure will be much improved next time after his success in out-bluffing Equitable Life in the courts over the now more than halved negligence claim.

One wonders what the clients, especially finance directors of major FT-100 companies, think of such rewards made possible by the fees paid on behalf of shareholders? That little has changed from the 1920s when the Wall Street financier Bernard Baruch, shown a flotilla of bankers' yachts, inquired: "And where are the customers' yachts?"

FULHAM'S poor start to the Premiership season may reflect suggested setbacks elsewhere in the business empire of the phoney pharaoh Mohamed Fayed.

With cries of pain echoing down the High Street it would be remarkable indeed if the drop in consumer spending had not impacted on Harrods, the cash machine that provides the life support mechanism for Fulham.

It may perhaps be significant that this year the pharaoh has not rushed out the Harrods results for the year to last January. The 2004 figures were revealed in June – several months earlier than usual. This year we are still waiting.

Another straw blowing down Knightsbridge could also be the endless executive exodus. In January Fayed bid farewell to Richard Simonin, his fifth chief executive in four years. Also gone are the former chief operating officer and the head of retail strategy.

A micro manager, Fayed hires and fires on the basis that he knows best. Yet the Harrods figures put that very much in doubt. For 1994 Harrods had sales of £348m and operating profits of £47m. Ten years later sales were £329m after deducting (due to new revenue recognition audit standards) the boosting of turnover by including sales made by concessions within the store which had boosted the figure to £473m. Operating profit was £33m.

So on a like-for-like basis sales had still only risen by 36 percent over ten years! In the five years from 1999 sales rose less than 12 percent. And profits had actually fallen from £58m in 1998. Despite this Harrods has paid up £80m in dividends since 2001. However, its ultimate parent company has paid the Fayed offshore interests dividends of £172m in that same period.

Fayed continues to keep the Fulham and his other shows, such as the Paris Ritz, on the road by bank borrowings plus asset disposals such as property sales and last month's sale of the Kurt Geiger shoe chain for £46m. The Kurt Geiger sale is perhaps another indication of the pressure caused by Harrods' continued poor performance. Asset sales enable the pharaoh to extract ever more unearned dividends which are then in part recycled into Fulham (more than £100m). But this is a policy which cannot continue indefinitely.

Poor trading at Harrods and a poor performance leading to relegation at Fulham could see the pharaoh have to make some hard choices. But his problem is that none of his trophy assets – Harrods, the Ritz, Fulham – are likely to command anything like the price he might want or need.

FULHAM'S latest opponents Everton also started the season with uncertainties over their financial future. A year ago Geneva-based company manager Christopher Samuelson was promising a £12.8m investment in the club in return for control on behalf of the Brunei-registered Fortress Sports Fund which was said to represent first Russian investors and then who knew who.

By the end of last season Samuelson was saying the money was there, but Everton's directors appeared split on whether they believed and/or wanted it. Now friends say that Samuelson is saying that his ambitions to take over the club are at an end. He is said to be concentrating instead on a dog food venture.

Meanwhile his Mutual Trust Management (UK) was struck off and dissolved in early August. Parent Mutual Trust SA in Geneva has also parted company with controversial Swiss director Roger Hunziker whose Rhone Finance

THE DIRECTORS

DREDGE & RIGG

SIR JULIAN, THIS IS HIRAM CHEAP III, OUR MEALS CONTRACTOR...
Mezair
YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB, HIRAM!
SO MUCH SO, WE'VE DECIDED TO COPY YOUR MANAGEMENT STYLE...
Mezair
YOU'RE ALL FIRED!
29.

outfit featured in the Polly Peck scandal.

Sadly Samuelson has found himself and his former company Valmet unwittingly drawn into two more recent scandals. Firstly lawyer Stephen Curtis, with whom Mutual Trust shared a Park Lane address and who had worked with Valmet in connection with jailed Russian tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky of Yukos, fell out of the sky in his helicopter last year in still uncertain circumstances. Khodorkovsky had been an investor in Valmet, the company management group Samuelson ran before setting up Mutual Trust.

Then police investigating the murder last April of fully latex-clad banker Edouard Stern in his Geneva apartment reportedly discovered documents relating to Stern's involvement with Valmet at the home of his admitted killer, call girl Cecile Brossard. Just what connection Stern, who was said to have dabbled in Russian deals, had with Valmet, which went out of business in 2002 remains unclear.

No wonder Samuelson finds dog food more attractive.

THOSE watching the role of the Independent Police Complaints Commission in probing the de Menezes shooting by Scotland Yard officers will be reassured to know that the IPCC's director of legal services John Tate is on the case.

As the man in charge of the failed Maxwell prosecution at the Serious Farce Office the "Far Controller" knows all about bringing the guilty to justice.

MICHAEL ASHCROFT'S political friends in his adopted country Belize have suffered another setback in their row with American entrepreneur Jeffrey Prosser of Innovative Communication over control of Belize Telecommunications. The Belize court of appeal last week restored Prosser as chairman in a decision which the Prosser camp claims nullifies recent and proposed sales of shares in the Belize Telecom company. These could have given control back to Ashcroft who sold out to the government last year.

Prosser is pressing a federal judge in Miami to double the $50,000 a day contempt fine already imposed on the Belize government for not reinstating IC representatives to the BT board. That fine has already topped $7.5m, which for a poor country is not small change. Like the Conservatives it appears the Belize government may soon need Lord Ashcroft's cheque book.

THE PROBLEMS suddenly admitted at brokers Williams de Broë by Dutch owners ING, which has begun disciplinary action over an estimated £56m hole in the accounts, have revived memories of colourful rumours about the leisure activities of certain executives often at the firm's expense. Tales of late night excess involving Russian beauties, Colombian marching powder and French champagne, all on the company credit card.

Yet somehow until an internal investigation began late last year none of this ever seemed to either be detected or interest the firm's owners or City regulators.

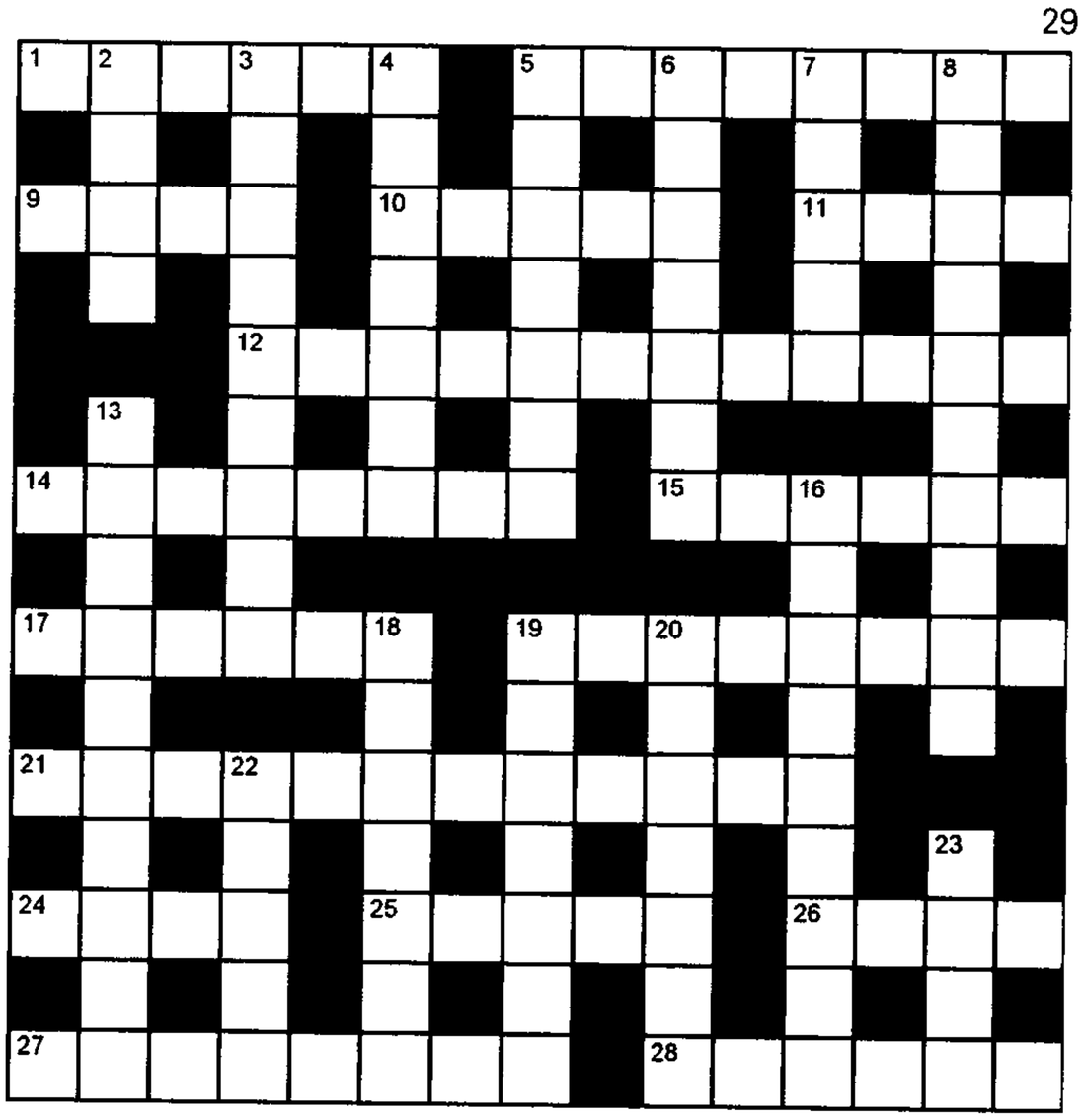
'Slicker'

EYE CROSSWORD 295

by Cyclops

£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 9 September 2005

Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk



ACROSS

1 Take the piss out of Dirty Den's getting an erection (4,2)
5 Forget playing around at flipping abrasive sexual activity (8)
9 Elegant sound of drunk after a key (4)
10 Crap Soul hit by Yes (5)
11 Bust – it is of Shakespeare – outside theatre's entrance (4)
12 Over-endowed cur really going at it might well get this hard to approach female (5,2,5)
14 "Blubber, flabby tyre" captures one quality of a judge? (8)
15 One very disappointed practitioner of risky auto-eroticism? (6)
17 Cartland lover's perverted sport in the office (6)
19 Answer on behalf of Ecstasy popping arse, Neville? (8)
21 Opening of surgical support first put on Bill, "the old groaner", as happens between rival ministers (12)
24 What makes member get up? Going topless (4)
25 See 6 Down
26 Midge Ure can't know number ones amount to shit (4)
27 A masochist probably wouldn't want to be still on top (8)
28 Group of politicians understand gobbling King Cole (6)

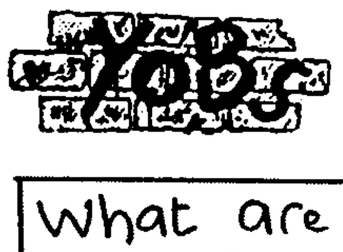
DOWN

2 Imitate, I say, gutless Cherie's U-turn (4)
3 Sad sucker's crappy hairstyle (5,4)
4 Dirty voting by Ukrainian top ex-leaders (7)
5 Brenda's man in frolic opener, slipping length in (7)
6/25 Cameo: *Gymslip Frolics* to be staged in London (7,5)
7 Dear me, it's shown back passage during concert piece (5)
8 Just piss off and lose virginity? (3,7)
13 How's your father's "Platonic" love arrangement with Lou finally ...? (10)
16 ... he'll be in order making love to sweep chappie (9)
18 Feeling edgy out of bed, gets pissed (7)
19 It might get whipped off, unable to restrain Melinda's top (7)
20 They'll perform a service and er, piss off Tony's no. 1 inside (7)
22 Some mistake, bleeding college! (5)
23 National Conservative piss artist circles (4)

Crossword 294 winner: PETE FOREST

ACROSS: 7/18 Shitloads of money 9 Talk 10 Pentagon 11 Arrows 12 Oberon 14 Touch up 15 Flea 17 Clot 20 Oracle 21 Skiver 22 Additive 24 Anne 25 Designate.

DOWN: 1/20 Isle of Dogs 2 Victoria 3 Slogan 4/16A/22D Pain in the arse 5 Starch 6 Blow-up doll 8 Statute 13 Bollocking 14 Totty 16 Ignored 17 Claptrap 19 Movies 23 View.



HUSBAND

BOLLOCKS TO BLAIR

Available on: **T-Shirt-£10** Half sleeve/round neck **Polo shirt-£15** Half sleeve/collar **Sweatshirt-£18.50** Long sleeve/round neck **Rugger shirts-£30** Long sleeve/white collar **Baseball cap - £7.50**

Polar Fleece-£30 **Ladies skinni-fit t-shirt-£15** Long or half sleeve/round neck **(Most styles XS-XXL -see web size chart or telephone)**

Front left crest graphic: LEAPFROG

Standard Unisex Rugger Polo Shirt Baseball Cap Ladies Fitted Rugger

For "Roast Beef" orders please add £2.50 & telephone, fax or mailorder only.

Fax: 01604 696555

Order online and see the full range at:

www.houndblair.com

Orderline: 01604 696444

We are able to personalise any number of garments

Name:..... Card No:.....

Address:..... Exp:...../..... Valid from:...../..... Issue:.....

..... Email:.....

Post Code:.....Tel:.....

All prices include VAT

Item	Size	Qty	Price
Cheques payable to "Splash"	P&P £3/item £4.95 max		
Splash, PO Box 6688, Northampton, NN7 1YR		TOTAL	

H&E naturist

The health & efficiency guide to naturist living

FOR ALL YOUR NATURIST NEEDS

- ✭ News & reviews
- ✭ Features & stories
- ✭ Travel & holidays
- ✭ Reader's pictures
- ✭ Plus lots more

GREAT READING FOR EVERYONE WHO ENJOYS A NAKED LIFESTYLE

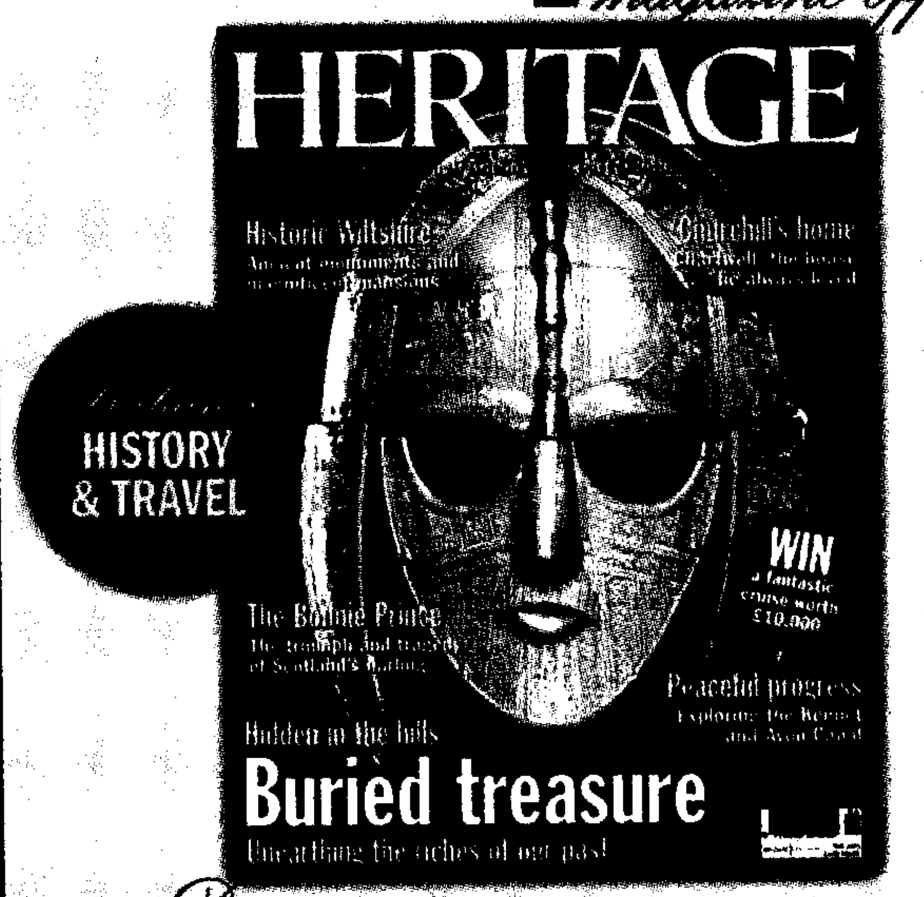
Telephone 01405 764206 or visit our website

henaturist.co.uk

New Freedom Publications
Burlington Court, Carlisle Street,
Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 5EG

SPECIAL OFFER FOR PRIVATE EYE READERS

Half price magazine offer



Discover more about the events and people who shaped our island nation. Get each issue of *Heritage* magazine 6 issues for just £13.50 - *that's half price*

(Overseas price £18)

IT'S SO SIMPLE TO SUBSCRIBE TO HERITAGE MAGAZINE. VISIT:

www.subscription.co.uk/heritage/PE05

OR CALL: **0870 830 4960** PLEASE QUOTE PE05

OVERSEAS READERS, PLEASE CALL +44(0)1858 438 810

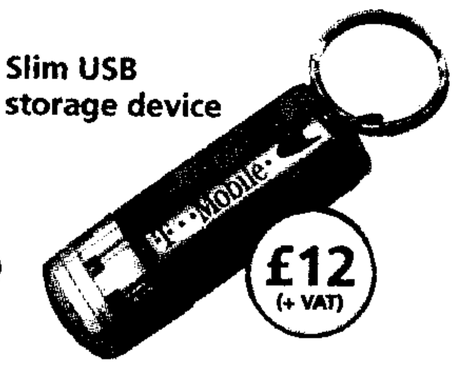
UK's leading supplier of
USB promotional merchandise

corporate branded gifts

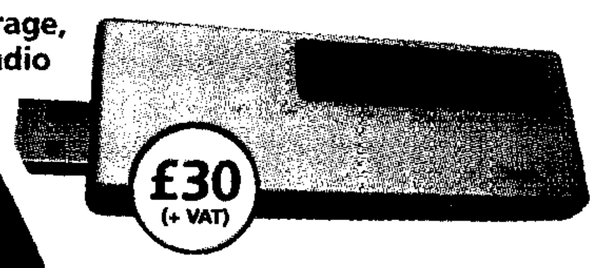
Prices based on 100 unit quantity and exclude VAT and logo print costs

Ballpoint pen with integrated USB memory storage device

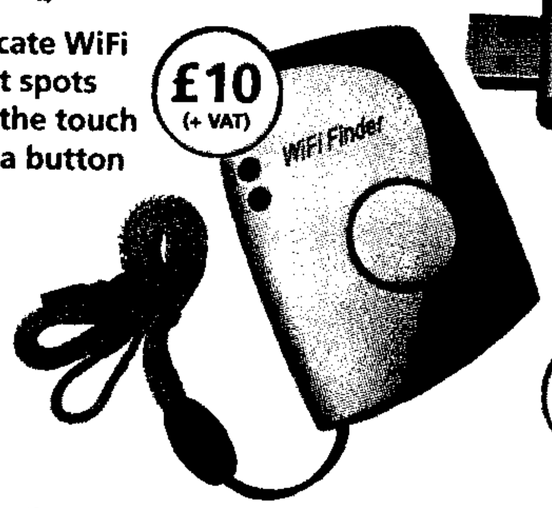
Slim USB storage device



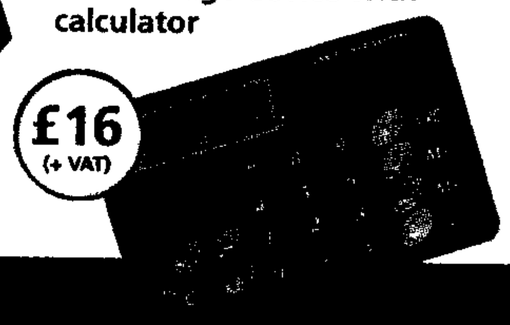
MP3 player, USB storage, voice recorder, FM radio



Locate WiFi hot spots at the touch of a button



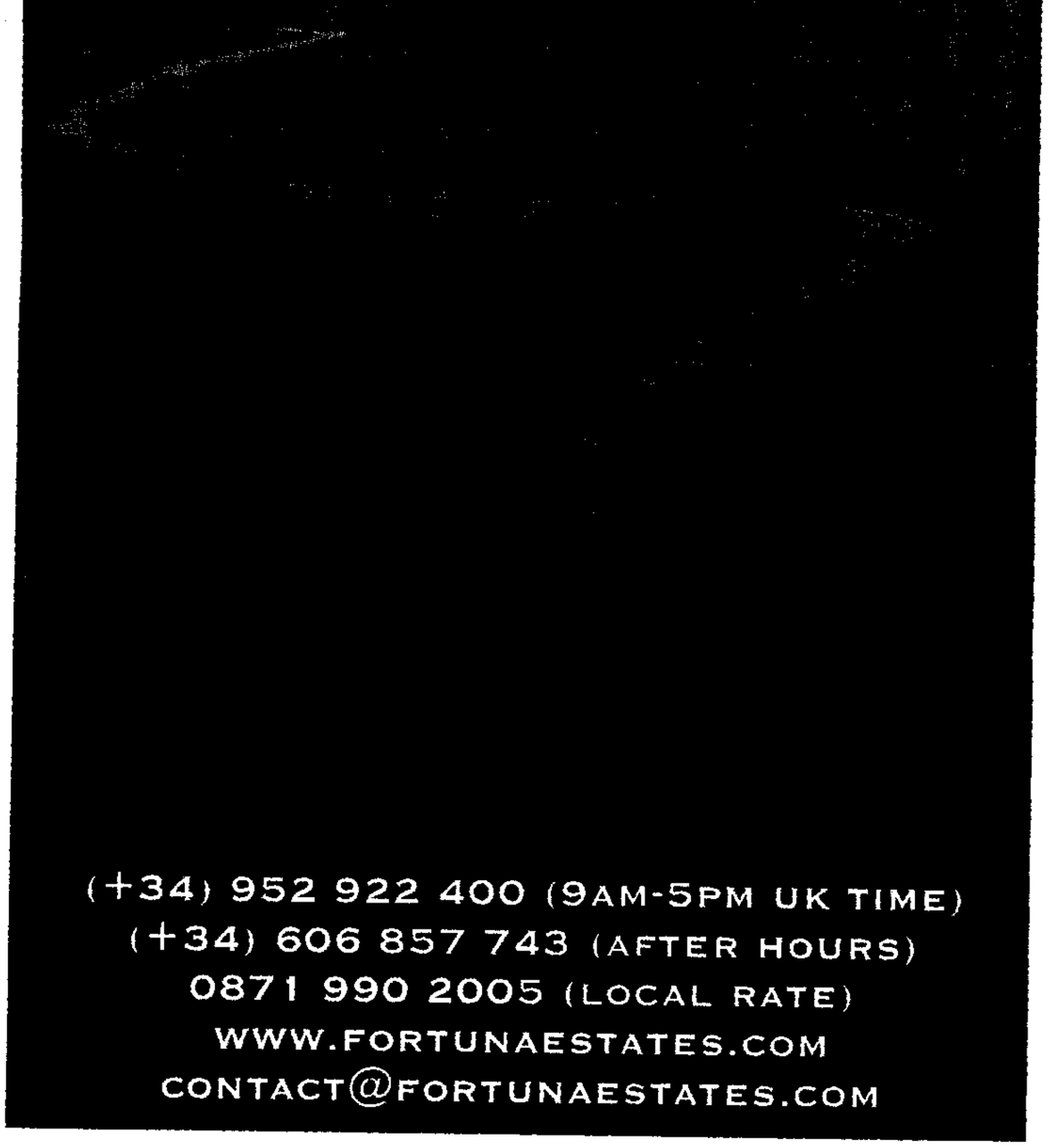
Credit card shaped removable USB storage device with calculator



www.jadetec.co.uk
sales: 0113 281 7788 • fax: 0870 138 4213
sales@jadetec.co.uk

Fortuna Land

DISCOVER THE ARTIST



(+34) 952 922 400 (9AM-5PM UK TIME)
(+34) 606 857 743 (AFTER HOURS)
0871 990 2005 (LOCAL RATE)
WWW.FORTUNAESTATES.COM
CONTACT@FORTUNAESTATES.COM

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

SAVE OVER £12 on the annual cover price

It's ONLY £24* for 26 issues

Use our credit card hotline:
0870 750 1714
or 01795 414871 (Overseas +44 (0) 1795 414871)
Subscribe online at:
www.private-eye.co.uk

Alternatively, complete this order form and send with your payment to:
PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS, P.O. Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8FA

I would like to subscribe to PRIVATE EYE.
Please send the magazine for one year (26 issues) to:

Title Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Your email:

☐ Yes, I would like to receive news of other products and services from PRIVATE EYE that may be of interest to me

Recipient details (for gift subscriptions)

Title Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Save 34%!
☐ UK* £24.00 ☐ Europe & Eire £32.00 ☐ Rest of World £38.00

Payment method

☐ I enclose a cheque for £_____ (payable to PRIVATE EYE, overseas subscribers can also pay by International Money Order)
☐ Direct Debit – just call 0870 750 1714 with your bank details or
☐ MasterCard / Visa / Switch (issue no:)

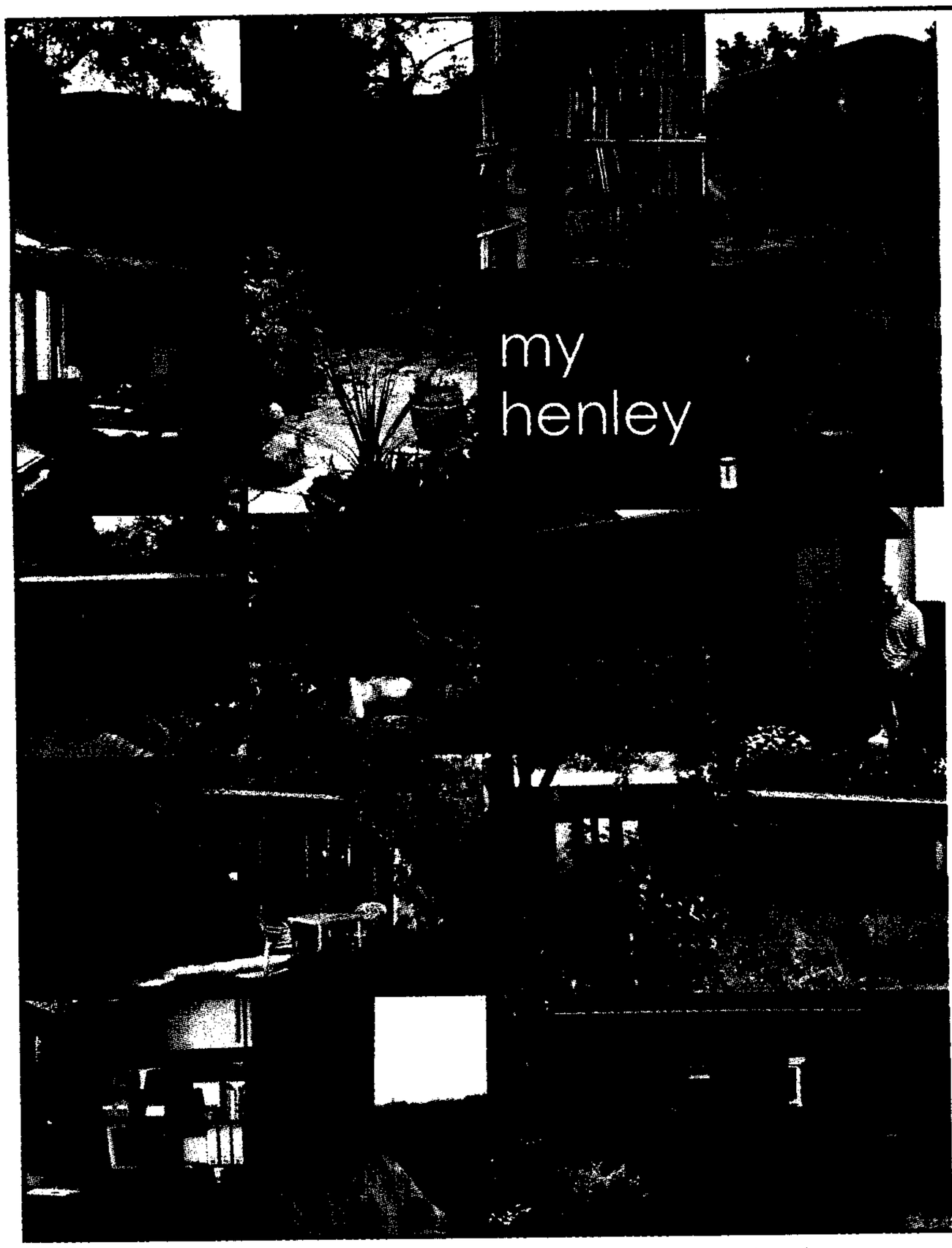
Card number:

Expiry date:

Switch only

Signature

N1140



Henley is the name on the UK's favourite range of personal office buildings.

Not surprisingly, Henley owners enjoy a better work-life balance. Liberated from the commuting treadmill, they're happier working from home. But in a separate building in the garden, free of household distractions, they're also far more productive. Comfortable, professional and secure. Whatever the British climate delivers.

No matter which Henley you select, it comes with electrics, lighting and double-glazing ready-fitted. Prices start from under £6,000, while foundations and planning permission are rarely required. Even better, our installation team will erect your Henley in a single day.

As well as a London showroom at Islington's Business Design Centre, we have a growing list of regional stockists, making it easier to take a closer look at our superb buildings. Just call us for details or visit our website. You could be working from your own Henley sooner than you think.

Bolton - Chesterfield - Chippenham - Croydon - Islington - Leeds - Norwich - Northampton - Sidcup - Solihull - Stowmarket - Sudbury - Wanstead - Weybridge - Wisbech

Call 0800 316 8586 (24 hours)
or visit www.henleyoffices.com

Comfortable • Professional • Secure

henley OFFICES

OM SAI RAM

A fitting end to the ill-fitting British suit

A suitable man to spark a men's clothing revolution

Consider this proposition. Would you rather pay the same sum for a single, off-the-peg, chain store suit cut by a computer and sold to you by a spotty boy who thinks side vents are to be found on a Lambretta scooter, or for two bespoke, custom cut, hand-stitched suits, measured and sold to you by a man for whom suits are a lifetime's passion?

The British clothing chain store has a lot to fear from ***Mr. Raja M Daswani*** of Kowloon. If there were a global ambassador for men's suiting, Mr Daswani, who owns and runs Hong Kong's biggest tailoring business, would be that man. He and his family team measure and make hundreds of suits a week for discerning clients across the world.

Indeed, so successful is ***Mr. Daswani***, that – a little unnervingly as he is measuring you up – he freely admits he doesn't really need to work any more: 'My team is as experienced as I am. But I just love men's suits and I wouldn't feel right sitting at home. It's not a business. It's a mission.

'I love seeing customers walk in a really bad suit that cost them a fortune and walk out in one of our suits that's perfect in every way, made with a good heart in a superior fabric for a half or a quarter as much.'

The price of a Daswani shirt and suit are astonishing. We are talking from £19 (£25 including tax and duty) for a custom shirt and £129 (£169 including tax and duty) for a fully lined, made-to measure suit in a lightweight wool or linen, to £250 (£325 including tax and duty) for a 100 per cent wool, entirely hand finished suit in a British cloth, with every refinement from handmade button holes to knee lining. Even the most expensive suit, made in deluxe superfine wool for £1,500 (£1,950 including tax and duty), costs a third less than it would on **Savile Row.**

Raja Daswani may be based in Hong Kong, but his sartorial mission to the badly dressed and overpaying British customer brings him to the UK as often as once a month. He and his team take over hotel suites in major cities, so British customers can make an appointment and get the full Kowloon Monty.

Measurements and digital photos are taken here and emailed to Hong Kong. Often, your suit will be started on by a tailor 6,000 miles away before you've even left the hotel. You can have it couriered within a week or so, or wait for a second fitting when the Raja team hits your town again a few weeks later.

It now remains to see whether the Raja revolution, with its inspired mix of artistic flair, entrepreneurial genius and digital technology, will see the end of the off-the-peg British chain store suit. On price alone, it's a sartorial solution that will even please the Suits in accounts.

Business hours 10am - 8pm
(by appointment only)
email: raja@raja-fashions.com
Mobile: *07786 543258*
Tel: 0163 557 4233
Website: www.raja-fashions.com

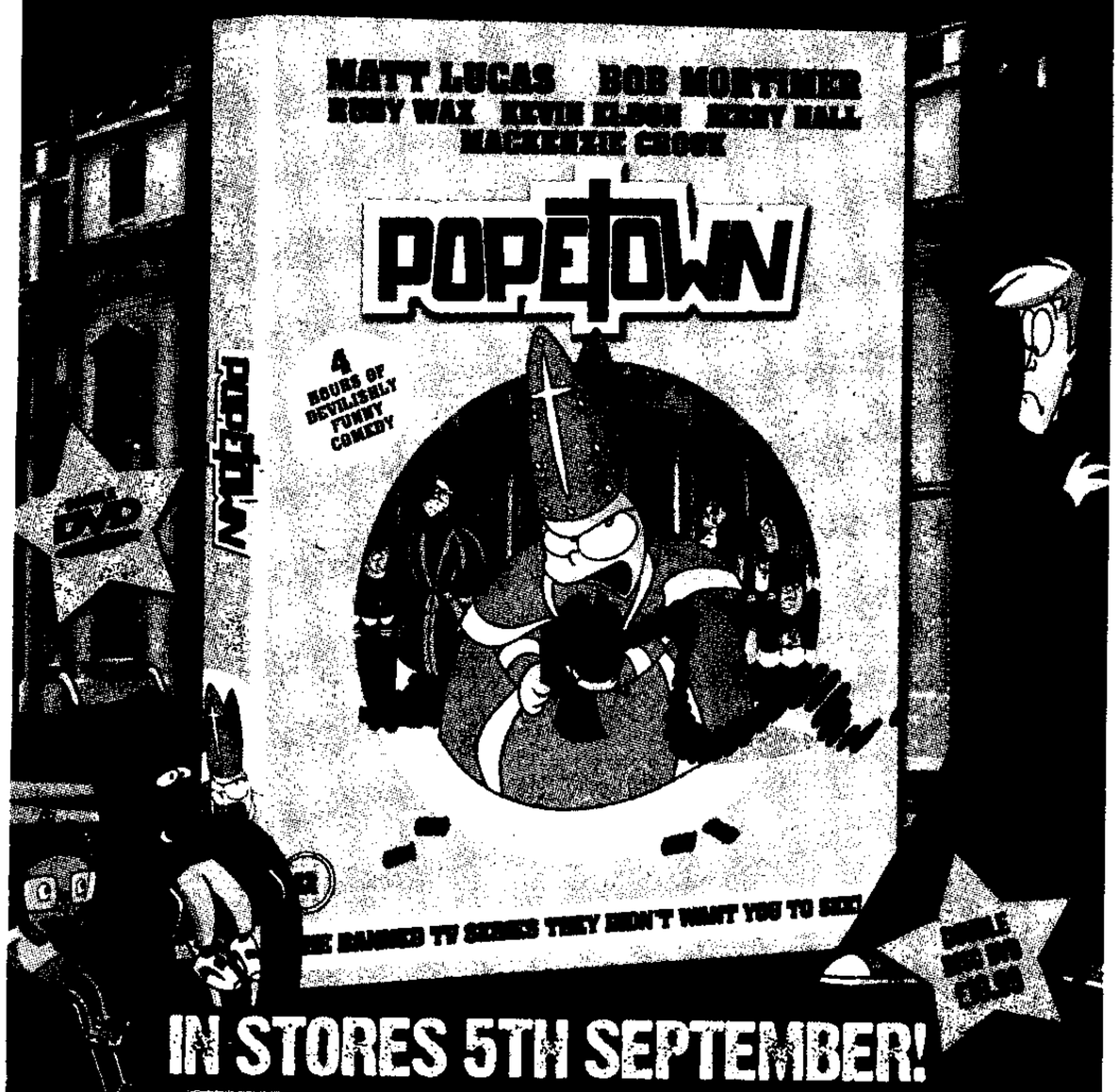
London Sep 12-16	Sheraton Park Tower Tel: 0207-235-8050
London Sep 17-18	Marriott Kensington Tel: 0207-973-1000
London Sep 19-21	Novotel Tower Bridge Tel: 0207-265-6000
London Oct 1-4	Hilton Paddington Hotel Tel: 0207-850-0500
London Oct 5-6	Four Seasons Canary Wharf Tel: 0207-510-1999
Glasgow Sep 12-13	Hilton Glasgow Tel: 0141-204-5555
Edinburgh Sep 14-15	George Inter Continental Tel: 01312-251-251
Aberdeen Sep 16-17	Thistle Aberdeen Caledonian Tel: 01224-640-233
Cambridge Sep 19-20	Crowne Plaza Cambridge Tel: 0870-400-9180
Oxford Sep 21-22	Oxford Old Bank Hotel Tel: 01865-799599
Birmingham Sep 22-23	Hyatt Regency Tel: 0121-643-1234
Bath Sep 23-24	Holiday Inn Express Sep 23-24
Manchester Sep 24-25	Renaissance Tel: 0161-835-2555
Reading Sep 25-26	Holiday Inn Reading-South Tel: 0870-4009067
Leeds Sep 26-27	Leeds City Hilton Tel: 0113-244-2000
Cardiff Sep 27-28	Cardiff Hilton Hotel Tel: 029-20646300
Nottingham Sep 28-29	Royal Moat House Tel: 0115-936-9988
Bristol Sep 29-30	Bristol Marriot Hotel Tel: 0117-929-4281
Dublin Oct 2-4	Four Seasons Hotel Tel: 353-1665-4000
Belfast Oct 6-7	Holiday Inn Tel: 028-9032-8511

RAJA FASHIONS
Main Shop: 34C Cameron Road, Ground Floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong.
Tel:(852) 2366 7624 Fax:(852) 23692807

BANNED FROM TV!

STARRING MATT LUCAS ★ BOB MORTIMER
MACKENZIE CROOK ★ RUBY WAX ★ JERRY HALL

Introducing Popetown, the most hilarious, most addictive, most controversial comedy series since South Park.
Banned from TV, damned by the Church, and brought to you in glorious, uncensored form. You have to see it to believe it!



IN STORES 5TH SEPTEMBER!

ENTERTAINMENT
WWW.REVOLVERGROUP.COM

VISIT
WWW.POPETOWN.COM

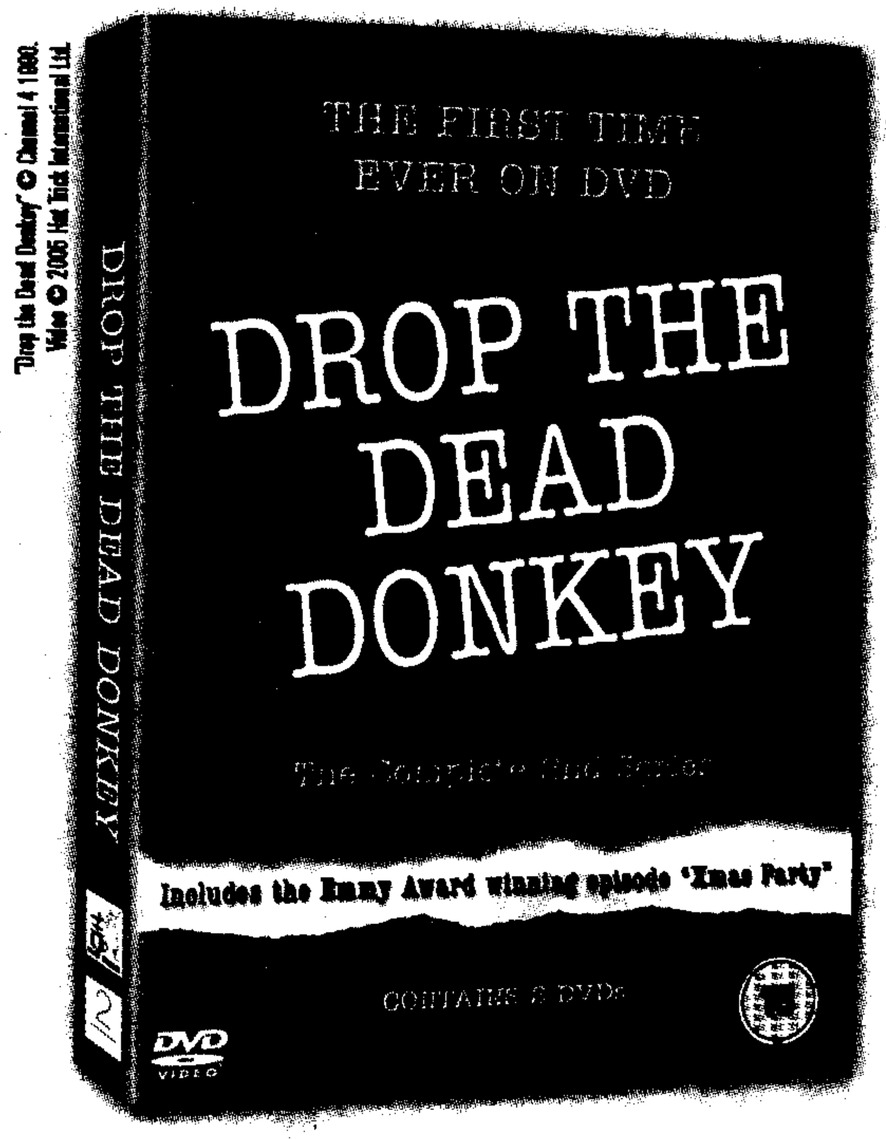
T-shirts £18 (inc P&P) - see our full range at

TEEMARTO.COM

Call: 01276 488 000

Stop Press...

The complete second series on DVD for the first time.


"Drop the Dead Donkey" © Channel 4 1990.
Video © 2005 Hat Trick International Ltd.
THE FIRST TIME EVER ON DVD
DROP THE DEAD DONKEY
DROP THE DEAD DONKEY
Includes the Emmy Award winning episode 'Xmas Party'
CONTAINS 2 DVDs
DVD VIDEO

Includes The Emmy Award winning episode "Xmas Party"

Out Now on DVD

HAT TRICK

CLASSIC COMEDY

LOVE BITES!

(Or at least let it nibble!)

OnlyLunch dating agency needs single professional men to meet our attractive intelligent women. No obligation interview.

Contact 0207 375 2213

---

same day doctor

Fully Confidential Sexual Health Clinic in Harley Street W1

Same day Appointments
Same day HIV results
+
General Medical & Psychological Consultations

114 Harley Street, London W1G 7JJ
www.samedaydoctor.co.uk
0207 935 0113

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

Births, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Retirements. Papers from archives 1642-2003. Sundays from 1915. Quality presentations. Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN
445 Brighton Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR2 6EU
www.remember-when.co.uk

020 8763 6363
or call FREE 0500 520 000

Lost out due to bad advice?

Why don't you sue your accountant/solicitor/surveyor
Contact: GORVINS on 0800 015 9986 or email enquiries@gorvins.com

---

View 200 Fine Portrait Artists

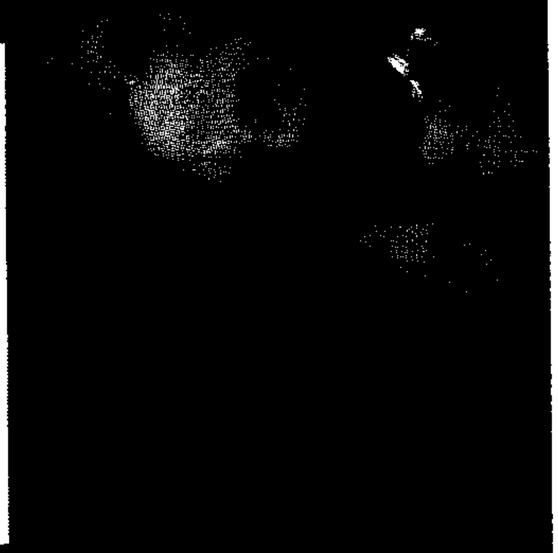
1000's of styles ...
unlimited possibilities
... one special occasion

People, children, pets, horses, houses dogs, cats, maritime, murals, wildlife, etc..

Copies & replica paintings, sculpture, photographs, caricatures, miniatures, etc..

Tel: +44 (0)20 7921 9708

e-mail: greg@commissionaportrait.com



WWW.COMMISSIONAPORTRAIT.COM

SEVENTY THIRTY

MILLIONAIRES AND HIGH NET WORTH INDIVIDUALS

MATCHMAKING, PARTNER HEADHUNTING AND LIFESTYLE SERVICE.
An elite team of psychologists, psychotherapists, fashion and style advisers will work as hard as you do to find you the right partner. Our sophisticated matchmaking service is designed to assist successful men and women achieve quality relationships. We provide a one to one in-depth approach to matchmaking and introduce our members to individuals who are screened for compatibility. Our clients are from all backgrounds and ages.

Tel: 020 7863 8880 www.seventy-thirty.com

PRIVATE EYE BINDERS

Only available direct from PRIVATE EYE

QUICK, NEAT AND EASY
Each binder holds 26 issues – a year's worth – and is attractively bound in dark blue with the PRIVATE EYE logo in white on the spine.

Price £10.00 each inc. p&p.
(for overseas orders please add 70p per binder)

Order online at www.private –eye.co.uk
Click on "binders"
Or simply call 0870 750 1713 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri
From overseas +44 (0) 1795 414 870

CUFFS & CO
LONDON

We stock over 350 different cufflinks designs, as well as a range of accessories.

PHONE FOR OUR FREE CATALOGUE

0845 226 3190

SHOP ONLINE
www.cuffsandco.co.uk

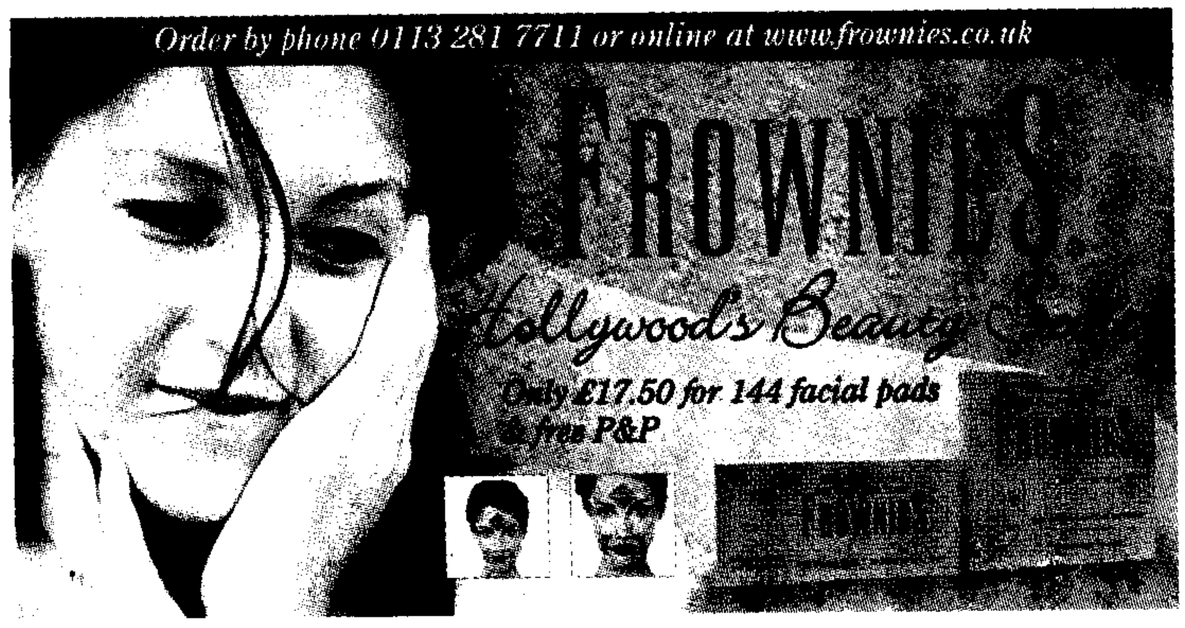
Seek and You Shall Find!

A discreet and above all independent buying service acting exclusively for clients in the search for property

BERKSHIRE • CORNWALL • COTSWOLDS
DORSET • HAMPSHIRE • KENT • LONDON
OXFORDSHIRE • SOMERSET • SUSSEX
WARWICKSHIRE • WILTSHIRE

Head Office - 01285 643344

PINKWELL
ESTABLISHED 1989
www.pinkwellpropertysearch.co.uk


Order by phone 0113 281 7711 or online at www.frownies.co.uk
FROWNIES
Hollywood's Beauty
Only £17.50 for 144 facial pads
& free P&P

LivingBeer.com
THIS IS ALE TASTING...
SWALLOW! DON'T SPIT!
LIVE!

WE COPY TO **DVD & VHS**
CINE FILMS AND SLIDES
CAMCORDER, BETAMAX, VHS TAPES & POLAVISION
FREE TRIAL OFFER
CAMCORDER & AUDIO TAPE REPAIRS
REEL TO REEL AUDIO & CASS'T TO CD
FOREIGN VIDEOS CONVERTED
FREE INFO. PACK
TEL.01454 772857
Memories On Video, 24 York Gdns, Winterbourne,Bristol.BS36 1QT
OR VISIT www.movid.co.uk

For semi display call Susan Whitear on 020 7878 2313

Personalised Wine & Champagne Labels

"Turns a bottle of wine or Champagne into an original and memorable gift."

Presented by your 'Squeeze my Pips' Pension Fund Manager
JOHN HANSELL
Vintage 1946 —
This wine is made from the extrovert Hansell grape variety, noted for its highly strung character and manic style. Not mellow or sophisticated, just politically incorrect. Despite its age, it shows great immaturity.
It is best enjoyed as you recount the party you gatecrashed during your drunken student days at Nonnington College of PE. Just how did you finish up wearing stockings, high heels, a mini skirt and that hat with wax fruit hanging off the rim?
Created by What's in a Name!
www.whatsinaname.co.uk

Our new website has...

- New label designs
- More images/illustrations
- Easy order-on-line service
- Still only £6.75 for 1 label
- And £9.50 for 4 labels

...making it so easy
Your name
Their name (nickname)
Date of the event / vintage year
50 words of your choice
Special greeting

Just say what you feel! (Allegedly)
Or describe them as a wine style -
"pert body, fruity character, good length, presumptuous style, now reaching maturity . . . best enjoyed as you . . . er, that's it!"

www.whatsinaname.co.uk

If you can't get on-line, write or phone for an order form
What's in a Name! St Julians, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0RX Tel 01732 743501

Have you got room to express yourself?

garden retreat or simply more space to work or relax.

T: 01949 860 482
E: info@garden-studios.com

garden studios

www.garden-studios.com

"One in six patients in hospital are there because they've been made ill by doctors, and two out of every five patients who are prescribed drugs suffer side effects – often serious, sometimes lethal. Doctors, along with cancer, stroke and heart disease, are now one of the main causes of death in Britain."

"How To Stop Your Doctor Killing You"

Vernon Coleman

- **How to manipulate your doctor.**
- **How to survive in hospital.**
- **Questions to ask your surgeon.**
- **Ten good reasons why you shouldn't trust your doctor.**
- **Breast cancer, tranquilliers, cholesterol and Ritalin.**
- **Tests and investigations – are they safe?**
- **The real cause of cancer.**
- **Don't let your doctor bully you ... *and much more...245 pages***

"Snappy prose and controversy expertly blended with authoritative facts. Dr Coleman's book is yet another winner ... an eclectic mix of facts we're amazed to discover with questions we've always wanted answered." *The Good Book Guide*

"(This book) has probably saved my life." *D. C. Somerset*

"What is so disturbing is that so much of it is true." *M. T. Yorkshire*

"Should be required reading for practitioners as well as patients – who need to be protected from our doctors."
Dr S. G. Positive Health

"I could not put it down. Riveting, Lifted my spirits." *P. D. Sussex*

"I sent a copy to my grand-daughter in Australia. Her friends are queuing up to read it.." *A. K. Devon*

"I would like you and your readers to know that here is one doctor who firmly agrees with you, particularly about doctors and drugs. Your books are a revelation and I have recommended them to patients as well as to friends and relatives."
Dr B. R. (hospital consultant)

HOW TO ORDER

By phone using your credit card: Please call 01271 328892 and quote reference PE22 .

By fax using your credit card: Fax on 01271 328768 (any time, day or night).

By post: Send your name, address and cheque to Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HG, England. (Cheques for £13.99 per book, payable to *Publishing House.)*

Please quote PE22 when ordering

Online: Please visit www.vernoncoleman.com

How To Stop Your Doctor Killing You **costs £12.99 per copy PLUS £1 per book towards UK postage (£2 per book elsewhere). Available from all good bookshops.**

If you are not happy with your book then return it to us in good condition within 30 days for a refund of the purchase price.

"The revered guru of medicine." *Nursing Times*
"The patient's champion." *Birmingham Post*
"His message is important." *The Economist*
Clear and helpful." *The Guardian*
"A godsend." *Daily Telegraph*
"Britain's leading health care campaigner." *The Sun*
"The man is a national treasure." *What Doctors Don't Tell You*

PRIVATE EYE

CLASSIFIED
020 7240 9129

£2.60 per word (£26 min charge)
Colour box £15
Box number £15
First ad in section £10
All charges VAT inclusive

Copy date for 16 Sep issue will be 1pm, Monday 5 Sep

You can email your ad to:
private-eye@mcmslondon.co.uk
or fax: 020 7379 7118

Reply to Box Numbers at:
Private Eye, McMillan-Scott,
9 Savoy Street
London WC2E 7HR

EYE TO EYE

TALL, HANDSOME, well-off, educated man, 30 years' old and living in London wishes to meet young ladies for relaxed dates. errbesq@hotmail.com

GENUINE GUY, mid-twenties, London based, educated professional, would like to meet similar lady to enjoy fun, days out, countryside, wine bars and friendship, possibly relationship. Reply Box 135701.

LATE THIRTIES' LADY looking for honest, decent gentleman who likes working and playing hard, sports, outdoors and some of life's refinements. Reply Box 135704.

AN EARLY THIRTIES' GUY, professional, educated, would like to meet genuine lady with similar interests. Like: outdoors, theatre, sports and arts. Looking for friendship / relationship. Reply Box 135709.

LADY, 40s, loves life and is looking for love with genuine man 40-50 years' old. Enjoy going out, staying in, arts and crafts, sports and theatre. Reply Box 135712.

AN ATTRACTIVE, ENIGMATIC blonde, blue-eyed female (mid-forties), 5'8, self-employed professional. Likes good food, good manners, good music and good conversation. Reply Box 137448.

ELEGANT, ATTRACTIVE, BRUNETTE, 27, slim, self-employed, smiley and solvent. Looking for relaxed dates with solvent professional men (35-55). London area. Reply Box 137409.

"I had a good response to my ad, met some lovely people and would recommend Eye to Eye to anyone looking for a genuine relationship"
Rob from London

EYE ART

BEAUTIFUL FRAMED POSTERS from around the world. Art, music, films and much more. www.vanishingpoint.info or call Tom on 07970 032 723.

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY. Signed, limited edition prints, available to order online. www.matthew lawrencecarr.com

EYE BET

£250 + FREE BETS. Compare odds from 20 bookmakers @ www.bookies.com

EYE ENTERTAINMENT

NICE 'N' CHEEZY – Fantastic live band for any occasion. www.nicencheezy.co.uk

EYE NOVELTIES

WWW.GIZMOANDWIDGET.COM "I think your site is fab!" Louise.

TITLES-LORD, LADY ETC. Tel/fax: 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

THE PERFECT SPORTING FANTASY. Just visit us at: www.sportingglory.com

GIVE AN ORIGINAL NEWSPAPER dated the day they were born. £19.95 plus free old Eye! Tel: 01492 531 195.

UNUSUAL GIFTS? Buy toys, board games and puzzles at WWW.NAFFTOYS.COM

BECOME A SAINT. Just £35. Perfect gift idea. www.yousaint.com

EYE CHARITY

I NEED TO RAISE £3000 for charity work in Ghana. Any help welcome. sarahmadgepreston@hotmail.com

EYE ESCAPE

OVERLAND TRUCK EXPEDITIONS: 10 days to 30 weeks across Africa – South America – Middle East. Telephone: 01963 363 400. www.oasisoverland.co.uk

www.mountainparadise.co.uk Mountain Paradise specialises in holidays to the High Tatras and unspoilt mountain range in one of the most beautiful undiscovered areas in the heart of Europe.

PUGLIA: good selection of accommodation including Trulli - www.apuliabella.com

TENERIFE, LAS AMERICAS. Apartment in 3-star hotel on sea front. Quiet area, golf, from £75pppw. Tel: 01803 526 168.

FIREWALK! Enjoy a weekend break in glorious Devon including full training and a supervised firewalk. Other activities included, splendid surroundings. Accommodation and meals included. Tranquil setting and challenging activities. Bookings now being accepted for September 2005 onwards. Other locations available depending on number. info@firewalker.co.uk

BARCELONA, three beautiful, very central holiday apartments, www.barcelonaflat.co.uk Tel: 0871 734 1859.

MUSHROOM HUNTING weekends in Brittany this autumn. www.mycologue.co.uk or call 020 7485 7063.

CAPE TOWN: Two-bedroom apartment directly on the beach overlooking Table Mountain, five minutes to waterfront. www.capetownbeachapartment.com

DISCOVER EAST SUSSEX and exercise your sense of post-modern irony at The Windsor Hotel, Hastings. Tel: 01424 422 709. www.thehotelwindsor.com

BETTER THAN THE COTSWOLDS? Clear air, pure water and sheer enjoyment. Colwall Park Hotel in the Malvern Hills – Restaurant of the Year and AA Courtesy & Care Awards. Gourmet breaks from £79.00 pppn 2+ nights. Tel: 01684 540000. www.colwall.com

CHATEAU (ENCHANTED, MEDIAEVAL). Dordogne. Autumn vacancies. Arcadian grounds with wild deer. £500 weekly per room including breakfast. 0033 616 219 865. info@chateaudordogne.com www.chateaudordogne.com

EYE FINANCE

WE INCORPORATE COMPANIES UK and Overseas. Telephone: 01372 750 800. www.formacompany.com

WANTED – INVESTOR for exciting new media company. Details at www.write4.co.uk

EYE HOMES

SOUTH DEVON. Three-bed, two garage semi; attic room; two conservatories; large garden, + planning permission and development potential. Quick sale. Serious applicants only, £250K secures. Tel: 07817 516 823.

COTTAGE: close to Goodwood and South Downs, £250K. Email: brian.wood2@tesco.net

EYE HELP

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS: private, discreet, confidential mail / message holding service, REGENT STREET. Established 1979. Tel: 020 7580 4242. Email: enquiry@hold-everything.com – www.hold-everything.com

IN DEBT? BANKRUPTCY? IVA? Credit cards? Call DebtDoctor. Tel: 07970 475 554.

SPEECHLESS? Call Brian Jenner, humorous corporate speechwriter and coach. www.brianjenner.co.uk Tel: 08458 380 395.

FERTILITY PROBLEMS? IVF is too expensive or has failed? Visit Successfulpregnancy.com

PAST LIFE REGRESSION under hypnosis with personal recording of all your revealed lives. Telephone: 0800 458 8014. enquiries@nlp-hypnotherapy.biz

EYE SEEK

SWITCHED-ON, SMART, professional male, 39, seeks interesting, lucrative work in UK or overseas: Excellent communication skills, first-class driver. Financial services background. John. Telephone: 07764 615 544. johnprivateeye@yahoo.com

EXTRA MATURE with real empathy is desperately seeking paid work. (Oxfordshire) Reply Box 140111.

EYE READ

FREE BOOKSEARCH – No purchase obligation. Twiggers Booksearch – Telephone: 01304 365 511. booksearch@twiggers.com

CHOOSE THE NEWS and express your views at www.punchycomment.com

DEAD PENGUINS MAGAZINE – All Nyms are Pseudo – www.deadpenguins.co.uk

ASHES FEVER? Read SPIN Magazine: at last the magazine cricket deserves; in newsagents now. Free DVD when you subscribe at www.spincricket.com

NEW OPPORTUNITY, no experience required, contact BecomeAPublisher@aol.com

THE ENTHUSIAST magazine will change your life. 'Hilarious and intriguing' – *The Times.* www.theenthusiast.co.uk

EYE BUSINESS

WE DO ACCOUNTS ALL OVER LONDON. Call Frans Timmermans on 020 7263 2632 or 07949 639 203. Or email: acomptare@blueyonder.co.uk

TEN PEOPLE WITH 30K or 30 people with £10K required for a project that will change how everybody does business. If it works, I could double or treble your money in five years. Reply Box 140349.

INVESTOR REQUIRED to expand low-maintenance, high-profit potential business. Email: robin1gray@yahoo.com

BULGARIAN LESSONS, legalisation, interpreting for beginners, property buyers. Mobile: 07952 290 811.

EYE SELL

FACTORY SURPLUS computers and notebooks, printers, digital cameras, DVD etc, etc. www.morgancomputers. co.uk or call 0870 126 4830.

LABOUR PARY? Conservative Party? Why bother? Buy yourself a hi-fi or flat screen from Richer Sounds and have your own party. For the UK's cheapest hi-fi, DVD, plasma screens, LCD TV, portables, freeview and loads more, call 0870 900 1000 for your local store or click www.richersounds.com

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – mostly £100-£3000. Shed not shop – telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. Tel: 01622 871 353.

SIGNED MEMORABILIA. Movies, historical, theatre, 5000 illustrated autographs for sale at www.autograph-gallery.co.uk

DREMEL ROTARY TOOLS. Carve, polish, sand, drill, sharpen, rout. www.Tool-Shop.co.uk

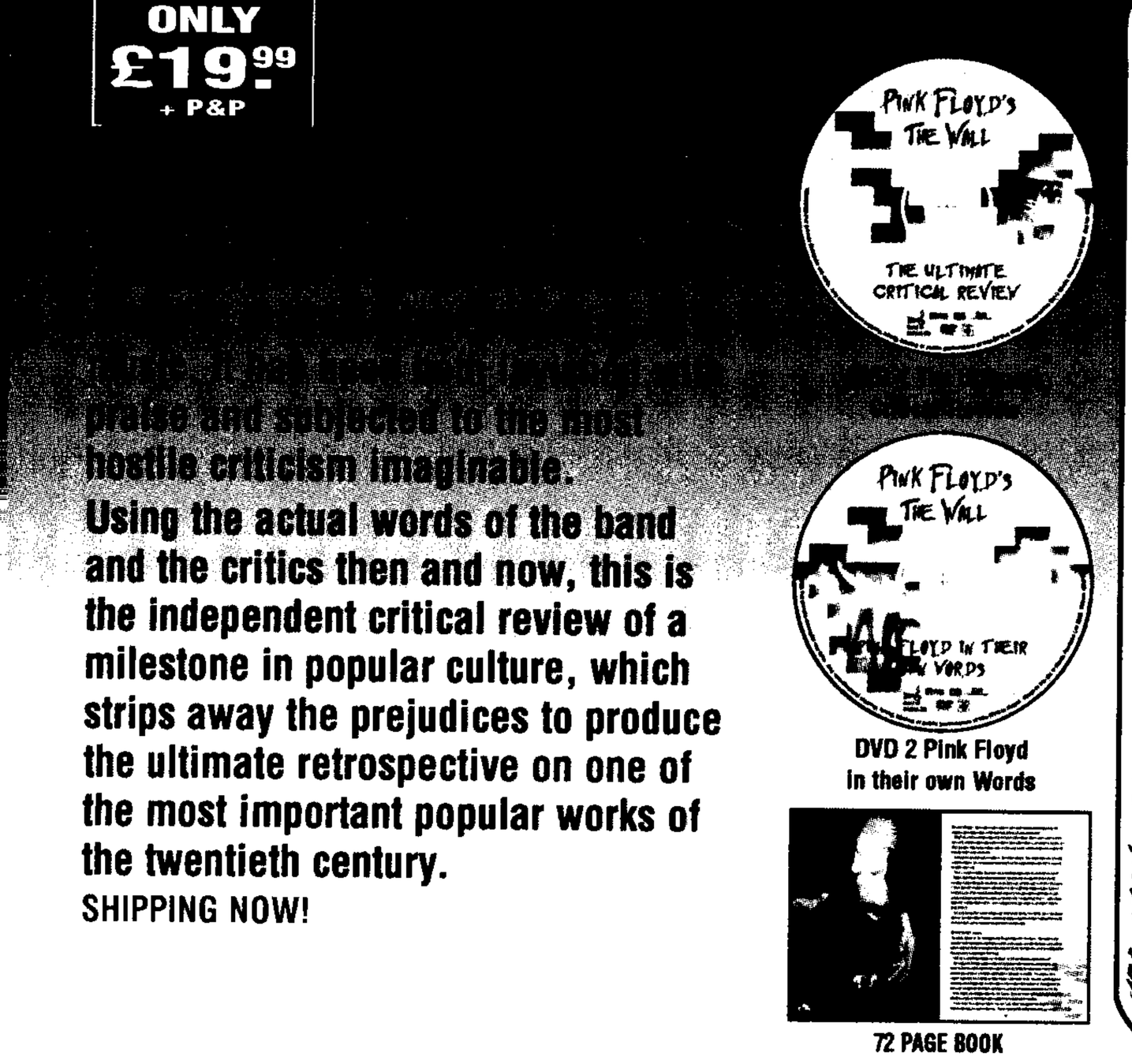
EYES No. 501 to date, subscription issues offers acgp99@hotmail.com (Dorset)

296 PRIVATE EYE back issues from 1971 onwards. Offers. info@austenlennon.co.uk Tel: 028 9145 4305.

To submit your advert the easy way go to www.eyeadvertise.co.uk

PINK FLOYD'S THE WALL

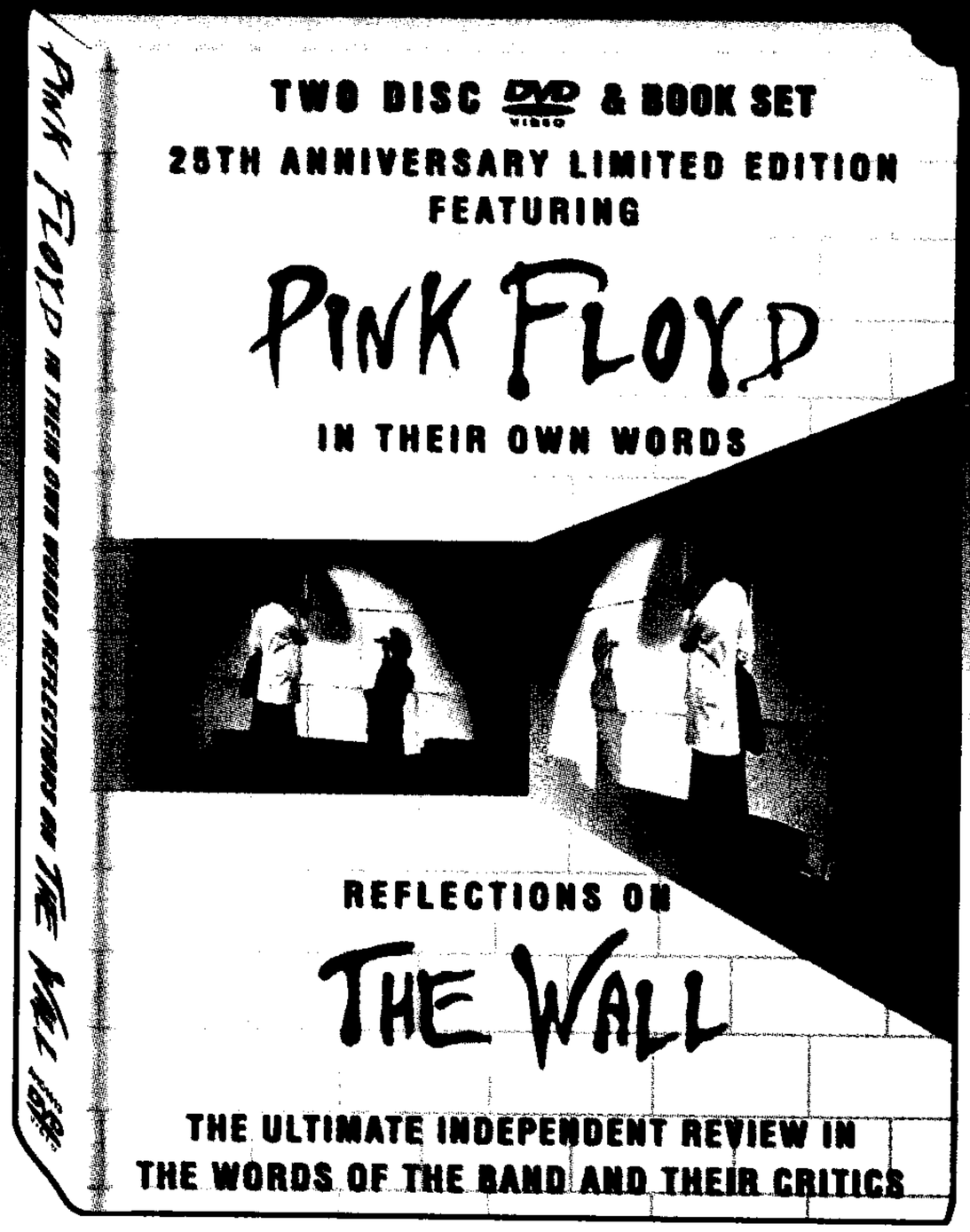
ONLY £19.99 + P&P


PINK FLOYD'S THE WALL
THE ULTIMATE CRITICAL REVIEW
PINK FLOYD'S THE WALL
FLOYD IN THEIR WORDS
DVD 2 Pink Floyd in their own Words
72 PAGE BOOK

praise and subjected to the most hostile criticism imaginable.

Using the actual words of the band and the critics then and now, this is the independent critical review of a milestone in popular culture, which strips away the prejudices to produce the ultimate retrospective on one of the most important popular works of the twentieth century.

SHIPPING NOW!


PINK FLOYD IN THEIR OWN WORDS REFLECTIONS ON THE WALL
TWO DISC DVD & BOOK SET
25TH ANNIVERSARY LIMITED EDITION
FEATURING
PINK FLOYD
IN THEIR OWN WORDS
REFLECTIONS ON
THE WALL
THE ULTIMATE INDEPENDENT REVIEW IN THE WORDS OF THE BAND AND THEIR CRITICS

INSIDE THE BONZO DOG DOO DAH BAND 2 DVD & BOOK SET

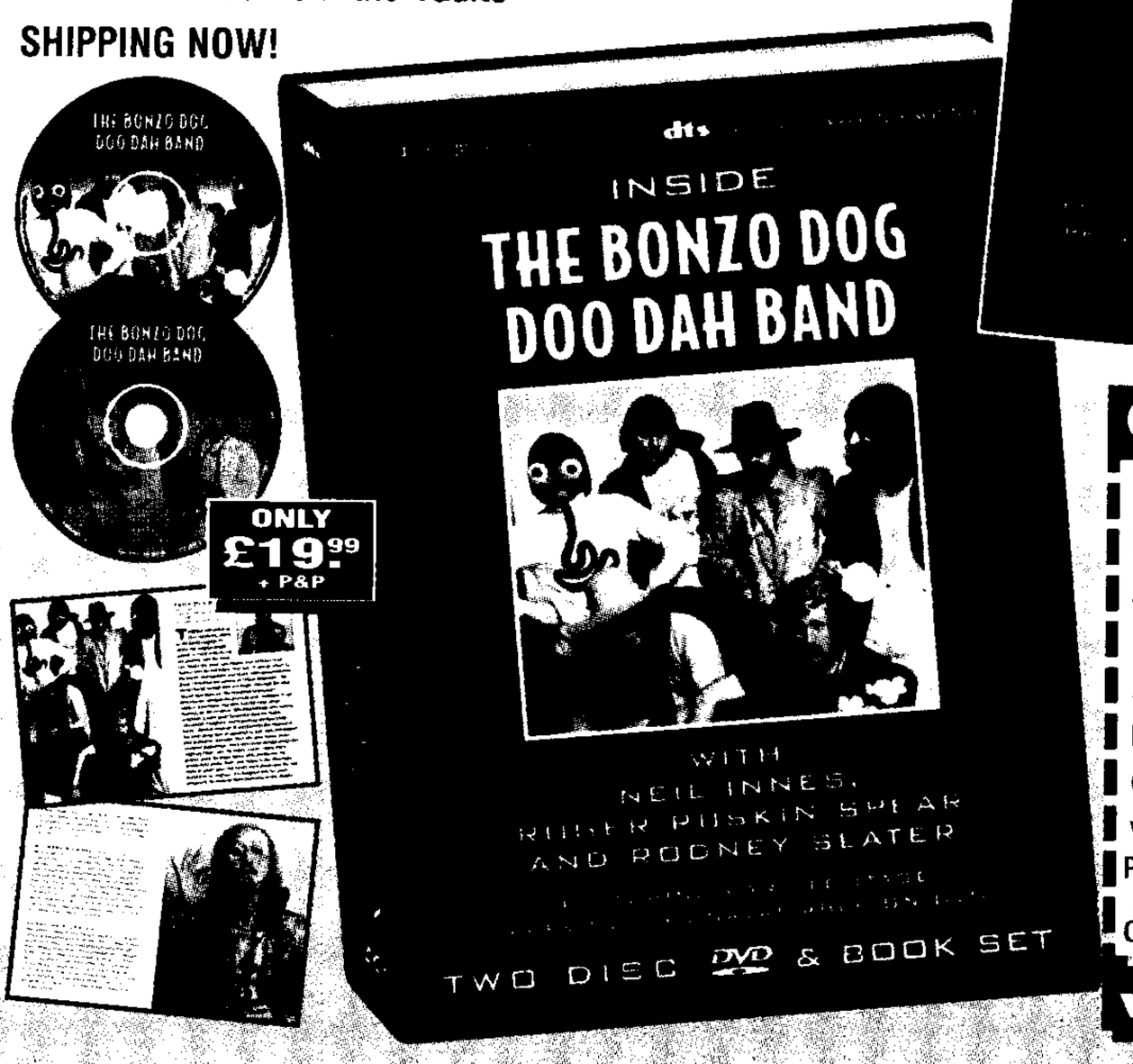
WITH NEIL INNES, ROGER RUSKIN SPEAR AND RODNEY SLATER

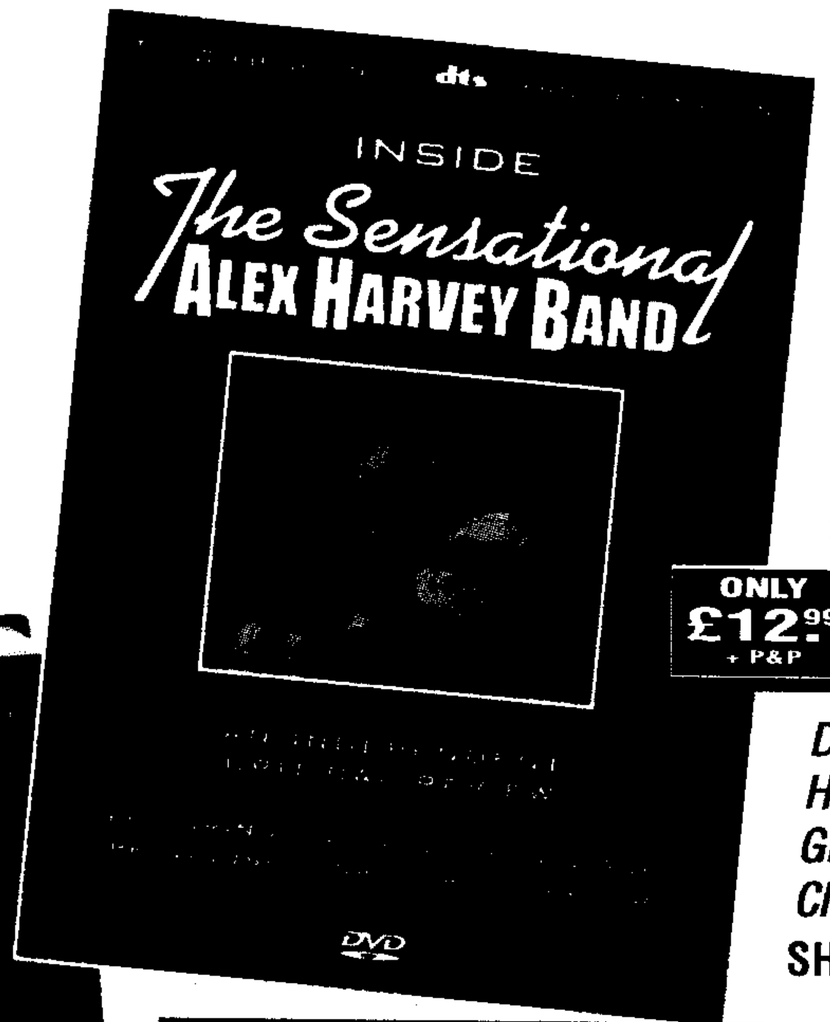
This comprehensive and authoritative double DVD and book set combines extensive reflections on life in the band by Neil Innes, Roger Ruskin Spear and Rodney Slater, with rare archive film.

DVD 1: Inside the Bonzos - a critical review

DVD 2: Rarities from the Vaults

SHIPPING NOW!


THE BONZO DOG DOO DAH BAND
INSIDE
THE BONZO DOG DOO DAH BAND
WITH NEIL INNES, ROGER RUSKIN SPEAR AND RODNEY SLATER
TWO DISC DVD & BOOK SET
ONLY £19.99 + P&P



INSIDE THE SENSATIONAL ALEX HARVEY BAND DVD

Features rare archive recordings of the band in concert plus new interviews from all four surviving members plus rare archive interviews of Alex himself.

Includes all the classics *Delilah, Next, The Faith Healer, The Boston Tea Party, Give My Compliments To The Chef* and more....

SHIPPING NOW!

CALL THE MAIL ORDER HOTLINE 01926 332640

Please send me: Wall book set ☐ Bonzos book set ☐ Alex Harvey Band DVD ☐

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

..... Postcode:.....

Please debit Visa ☐ Switch ☐ American Express ☐ Mastercard ☐

Card no:.....

Valid from.....Expiry date .....Issue no .....Security no .....

Please pay by cheque (payable to Classic Rock Direct) or credit card. Please add £3.00 for post and packing. Call 01926 332640, visit classicrockdirect.com, or fill in this form and send it to Classic Rock Direct, 20 Hawkes Drive (Unit 2), Heathcote Industrial Estate, Warwick CV34 6LX.

www.classicrockdirect.com

BOLLOCKS TO BLAIR clothing, see advertisement page 30. Design of The Year. www.splash clothing.com www.houndblair.com PERSONALISATION 1-10k+. Quality goods with quality logos. Order line, tel: 01604 696 444. WEAR YOUR THOUGHTS.

EYE CARE

FUN AND RELAXING massage therapy. Telephone Remi: 020 7713 8531.

EYE SAY

CHANGE THE FUTURE – www.republic.org.uk - call 08708 508 825.

SHERLOCK, GOOGLE, SUDOKU, PC

GREAT BRITAIN, great country. Great misleaders, but very well rewarded. EXAakaTLC.

ARMY OFFICERS, honoured for betraying their men, covering up betrayal, turning a blind eye or all three? EXAakaTLC.

EYE LAW

YES, you can now come direct to a barrister. Tel: 020 7833 9625.

EYE LEARN

TRAIN TO BE A JOURNALIST – 10-week diploma course starts 10 October. www.jtc.co.uk

EYE EARN

COMPUTER / INTERNET USERS WANTED. Earn £500-£5,000 a month. Training / support provided. www.iworkformyself.com

IN JUST 7 YEARS, working part time, after investing just £200, I am having fun, I'm stress free, driving a Merc CL500, earning £20,000+ per month. I do not worry about traffic jams, deadlines or my pension. I wake up when I have finished sleeping! You are dissatisfied, under stress and would prefer my lifestyle. Curious? Call Free 0800 902 0991.

EYE EVENTS

MAYFAIR SPORTING CLUB. Black tie dinner boxing at The Café Royal. Please Telephone: 020 7388 5999 or you may go to www.mayfairsportingclub.com

EYE NEED

OUR DAUGHTER died at birth, partner left me, working full time to bring up son, but debts are crippling us. Desperately need an angel to help raise £40K so as to see some light. Please can you help? S/C: 30-92-86. A/C: 11802268. Thank you and God bless.

FIREFIGHTER NEEDS £15K for spinal surgery. Desperate to return to work. Wife very stressed. Please help. Yorkshire Bank, S/C: 05-03-68. A/C: 64774138.

50, GOT ME, got family, lost job, lost house, need income. HSBC, S/C: 40-30-26. A/C: 01090550.

SINGLE DAD, discharged bankrupt, needs £2000 to retrain as HGV driver. All help appreciated. S/C: 08-92-49. A/C: 01334856.

POTENTIAL ORDINAND needs help to sort out £10K debts before following vocation. S/C: 60-06-06. A/C: 80161340 (NatWest).

PARENTS AREN'T MAKING ENDS MEET – I need help – any donations are gratefully received. Reply Box 140436.

FINANCE STUDENT: £6K needed for final 12 months' study whilst caring for ill mother (MS). hbrownfc@mail.com S/C: 83-18-44. A/C: 00213383.

CRYING IN DEBT: 18-month-old child to feed, tired, desperate, embarrassed, anyone willing to help us? Alliance and Leicester, S/C: 72-50-02. A/C: 26174387.

PLEASE HELP. Can afford only ten words. Smile. S/C: 08-92-87. A/C: 88055608.

NEW ROOF NEEDED. New business costing, new wife nagging. Please help! HSBC, S/C: 40-47-86. A/C: 90953377.

LUKE NEEDS HELP – training as chef with Jo's 15 and needs a cheap room or help with costs. House-trained and will cook the occasional meal. Ring Liz on 07976 153 775.

WOMAN, 37, needs fresh start. £10K would change life. S/C: 63-90-90. A/C: 051271438200. Thanks.

COULD YOU BE OUR PATRON? Clergy family desperately seek school fees for dyslexic children any help much appreciated. Reply Box 140654.

GRATEFUL READERS, please help, genuine person seeking kind contributions. S/C: 09-01-26. A/C: 34309385.

SINGLE MOTHER, genuinely persecuted by UK government http://isafer.tollfreepage.com S/C: 07-44-56. S/C: 32325792.

21-YEAR-OLD in serious debt, just finished university and I am £50,000 in debt. I am now doing two jobs. S/C: 11-18-11. A/C: 12664793. Please help!

PLEASE HELP; couple made redundant, need funds to help start own business. S/C: 77-66-13. A/C: 04645168.

COMPOSER, SPINALLY INJURED. Love inspirational Highland location. Bosendorfer and big money please. S/C: 80-02-85. A/C: 00307666.

ARTS BENEFACTOR PLEASE! New unique gallery and classical music venue, London, privately funded, struggling for last bit of finance, £25K to finish electrics, sound-proofing. Going to be special – become a patron if desired. clare@theredhedgehog.co.uk

ANTI-WAR HONEST ACTORS require £3K sponsorship / funding to perform in every city in UK. S/C: 20-11-81. A/C: 00130745.

COUPLE DESPERATE FOR IVF. Working, but no savings, biological clock ticking. Any amount a blessing. S/C: 20-11-74. A/C: 20350850.

MARKET RESEARCHER travelling to Ethiopia in October, helping country to develop tourism. Brilliant TV promised, contacts needed. Tel: Lorna Tee, 01233 732 993 or lorna_tee@hotmail.com

BUSINESS ANGEL sought for niche record label specialising in classic psychedelic and progressive / classic rock: Fantastic reputation for quality product and strong artist relationships; worldwide distribution in place. Very highly regarded team within this niche area. Trading two years and now at break even point. Further capital sought for expansion and acquisition. Equity available. Minimum of £85K sought. Interested parties to contact Box Reply number 139453 with your contact details and background.

EYE DRINK

CHAMPAGNE HORREURS. Send me photos of champagne badly presented / served in restaurants or home. Veuve shots best. Prizes for worst abuses. paulfurey@pec.org.uk or call 07921 927 909.

EYE SERVICES

TRACE DEBTORS and missing persons: £99. 'No Trace No Fee'. Telephone: 0800 197 9822 or info@protrace.co.uk

HIGH-CONCEPT commercials and promotional videos for your business. Outstanding value from an award-winning filmmaker. www.edoardonolfo.com

EYE CONTACT

RUSSIAN LADIES, attractive and sincere seek relationship/ marriage. Meet many Russian ladies in Britain. Unlimited introductions. Excellent success rate. IFM. Telephone: 01708 478 697. www.intromoscow.co.uk

BEST SINGLES magazine in universe. Free details PTP(PE) P. O. Box 40, Minehead, TA24 5YS. Tel: 01643 709 509.

nomorefrogs.com™
Smart matching for discerning daters!
FREE psychometric profiling matches people to *people*
Est. since 2000

REFRESHING ORIENTAL MASSAGE, South Manchester. High quality and professional. Open 7 days, 10am-12am. Tel: 07765 258 671.

LOVING LINKS. UK's leading discreet adult dating service since 1994. Unique top level, one-to-one matching service and fast online email system. Call David for a chat: 08456 440 919.

TAMARA: professional, mature, Malaysian visiting massage. Tel: 07930 386 378.

SPEED DATING – The new way to meet other professionals: 20+ three-minute face-to-face dates in one night. Telephone: 08458 385 600. www.speeddater.co.uk

EastDateWest is a members' dating club for Orientals living in the UK looking for Western partners. Telephone: 020 7351 0750, (London). Telephone: 0161 629 9584, (Manchester) www.eastdatewest.com – now with online videos!

ENGLISH THERAPIST: Relax and be pampered in Chelsea. Visits also available. Tel: 07932 939 227.

A FUN, FULL-BODY MASSAGE. Eastern or Western techniques by 1 or 2 ladies. Lancaster Gate, W2. Tel: 020 8969 2501.

HEDONISTIC, SLIM LADY seeks rakish company and lover. Tel: 07795 022 650.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. Tarry a while: Professional massage in style. Tel: 07812 208 627.

SMOOTH, TALL, interesting, attractive man seeks seriously hirsute woman. Reply richardch1@hotmail.co.uk

LONDON LAWYER, (55), seeks tactile lady for fun and friendship. malcolmgsw@msn.com

LONESOME OXBRIDGE BLUES? Why not meet somebody new at www.BluesMatch.com

SASHA, FEMALE THERAPIST in Berkshire, offering a totally relaxing holistic experience to relieve all tension. Tel: 07905 113 440.

BLONDE, CURVY LADY, no-nonsense type, (42) seeks wayward gentleman (45+) to enjoy fun times. Tel: 07929 921 919.

TALL, ATTRACTIVE, mature, intelligent woman with Bohemian outlook is looking to meet tall, successful, ethical, masculine men who know how to treat a lady. Impecunious, apprehensive or overworked guys need not apply. Phone 07950 638 578 (no text or voicemail).

ADDITIONS. A discreet, ' loving', adult newsletter, popular for over 10 years. An understanding service for lovers. Tel: 020 8905 3304. View online.

CHINO'S – GREEK, ROMAN. Qualified holistic therapist. 'When pleasure and health is life'. Tel: 020 8960 6306 or 07785 912 439.

FANTASTIC NEWS for intelligent fun-loving men! You are in great demand. Dozens of attractive women of all ages join us every week looking for a compatible partner. With over 2000 to choose from, one may be perfect for you. Attractive Partners is a professional introduction agency with friendly staff. We like nothing more than bringing like-minded people together. Whatever your age, wherever you live, telephone for our FREE brochure or take a look at our website now. Make just one call: it could change your life. Telephone: 08702 424 212. www.attractivepartners.co.uk

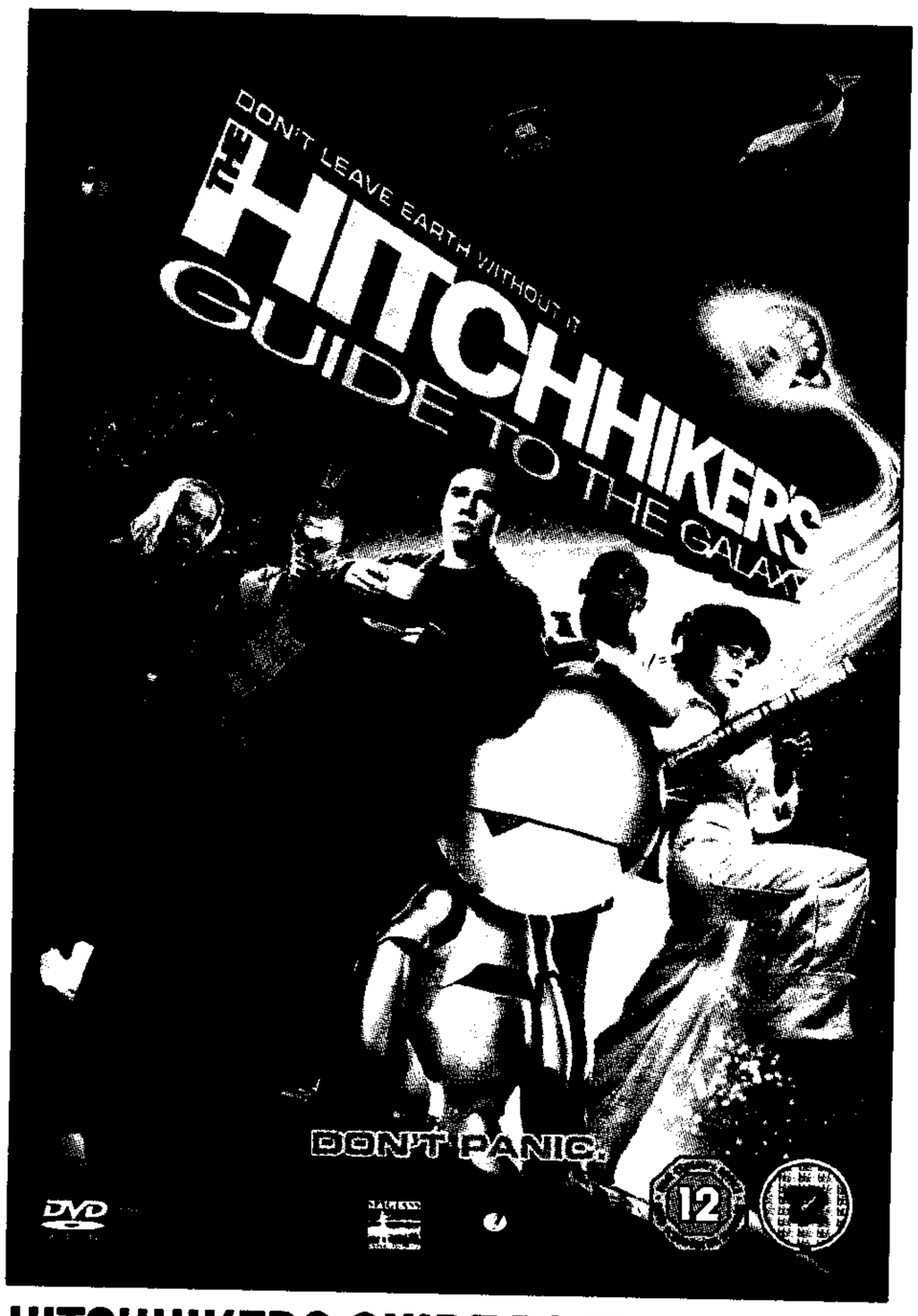
ONLY LUNCH DATING AGENCY. One to one lunch and dinner dates for busy professionals. How people like you meet people like you. www.onlylunch.com Tel: 020 7376 2213.

To submit your advert the easy way go to www.eyeadvertise.co.uk

NEW RELEASE

Virgin megastores

Buy at virginmegastores.co.uk



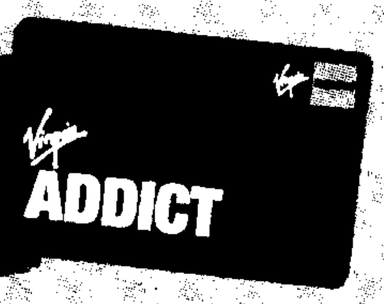
Martin Freeman (The Office) heads up an all-star cast in this wonderfully funny big screen adaptation of Douglas Adams' seminal sci-fi comedy as the eternally befuddled Arthur Dent. Includes director's commentary, Making Of, Marvin's Hangman set-top game, deleted scenes and more.

OUT 5 SEPTEMBER

HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
DVD

FREE VIRGIN EXCLUSIVE MARVIN KEYRING*

ADDICT



HAPPENIN' *vs.* HAPPENED

Virgin Addict. Collect card instore. Valid on everything except games consoles, mobile phones, iPods mp3 players, airtime vouchers, gift vouchers & digital hardware. Offer may vary in Eire. *While stocks last
Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy © Buena Vista Home Entertainment Inc.

(c) Copyright 2005 Nokia. All rights reserved. Nokia and Nokia Connecting People are registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation. For full specifications, please refer to www.nokia.com

Precious metal.

Aesthetic. Ergonomic.
Precision engineered and solidly encased in laser-cut, high-grade stainless steel. Featuring MP3 player, integrated camera, bluetooth and hi-resolution scratch-resistant screen. Welcome to the art of conversation. The iconic new Nokia 8800 – Designed for the senses.

www.nokia.co.uk

NOKIA
8800

9 770032 888112 38>

NOKIA
Connecting People